THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

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Volume 18, Number 50

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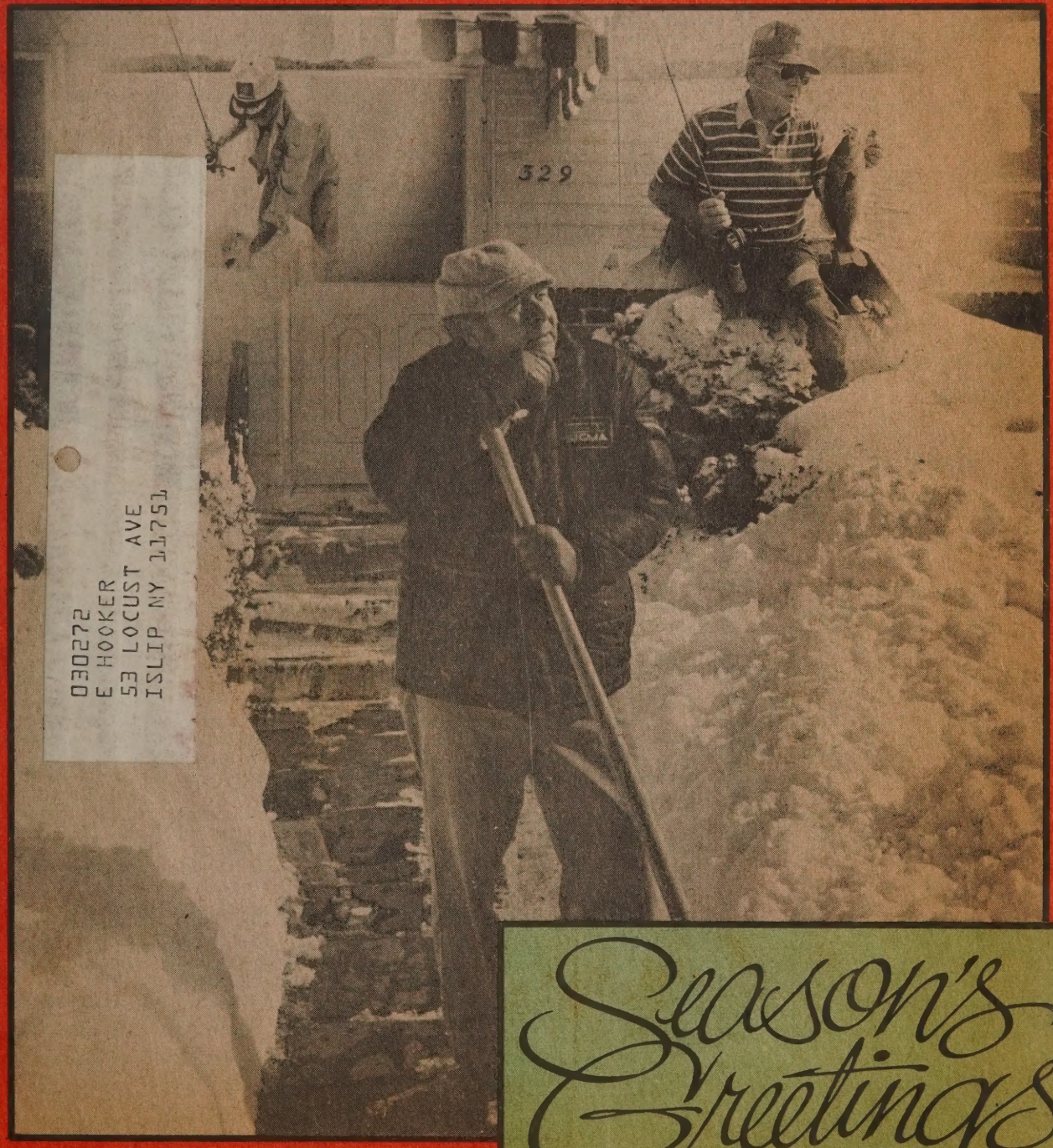

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EDITORIAL

IN RETROSPECT

It's hard to believe that another season has come and gone, yet this issue marks the last of '83 before The Fisherman staff takes its annual two week hiatus. An all too brief a stay from the deadlines and pressures which come with cranking out a weekly such as this.

The season past has certainly had its share of bright spots, but one of the brightest surely occurred in the area of fisheries management with the passage of the Striped Bass Management Bill. Viewed as an impossible task by some in the not too distant past, passage of this legislation, which upped the minimum size limit for stripers to twenty-four inches, was hailed as a major step in conserving East Coast striper stocks. It also marked a change in the attitude of our New York State Department of Environmental Conservation which demonstrated its commitment to sound management of the resource with its support for the bill.

A Bluefish Management Plan moved closer to reality this year and plans, were even being readied for a Weakfish Management Plan. Conservation of our bluefin tuna stocks continued and the good fishing for them this past summer and fall is being directly attributed to conservation measures put into place over the past few years.

So, it looks like sound fishery management has arrived. But for it to be successful, we must all do our part. Although commercial netting may have the most damaging effect on a fishery, in many cases we rod and reelers are also capable of taking our toll. Fish stocks have been subjected to more intense pressure than at any time in history and that pressure will only increase in the years ahead. Minimum size limits and sensible bag limits are the way of the future despite the opposition of a good number of rod and reel fishermen, many of whom are quick to criticize the netters and their methods. There are times when I've been forced to wonder if, as some netters claim, the true motivation for some rod and reelers is to eliminate the competition. Fortunately, those who fall into this category are comparatively small in number. Far greater are the number of anglers who applaud management for all concerned.

Even among the pure recreational angler, there is much room for "cleaning house." The waste of bluefish at some South Shore ports during the height of the bluefish run this year was a disgrace and all concerned should share in the responsibility for seeing to it that a similar situation does not occur in 1984. Catch and release is one obvious solution and this could be made practical with just a few minor changes in the way fish are landed. When the fishing is really hot, mates equipped with heavy gloves could easily lift, rather than gaff, many of the choppers, particularly if fares were rigged with a 10 to 15 foot length of 50 pound leader. The real problem, though, isn't logistics so much as a state of mind. Far too few anglers are schooled in the concept of "catch and release" and this becomes even more disturbing where smaller members of a species are concerned—"postage stamp" flounder being a prime example.

Fortunately, more and more anglers are discovering the satisfaction that comes with setting a fish free. Also, many anglers are avoiding the "fish kill" syndrome by turning to light tackle which in many cases reduces the overall catch, but increases the fun tenfold. After all, that is what it's all about, isn't it?

Charter boat skippers who go out of their way to pile up big scores on the dock as a means of luring future bookings are a real sore spot. A large percentage of the fishing public is turned off by this buffoonery. I guess it's reasonable to expect that those captains who insist on such practices are headed the way of the dinosaur. Happily, many of the "new generation skippers" have recognized that there is a growing awareness on the part of anglers that a higher body count at the end of the day does not necessarily make for a fun trip. More and more captains are advertising the use of light tackle and some even encourage customers to release part of their catch once they have caught enough to suit their needs.

Progress is being made in the surf as well and a good part of the credit should go to the New York Surf Fishing Contest which encourages the release of point fish and bans any "sold" fish from competition. This year I witnessed anglers who just a year or two ago, would not even consider releasing a big blue or legal striper, set them free without so much as a blink.

The satisfaction can be contagious, but we all have to do our part. Here at The Fisherman, we'll do our best to enlighten and educate those still in the dark.

If this all sounds like a New Year's resolution, then so be it. And along with it, comes sincere wishes for a happy and healthy 1984.

Fred Golofaro

THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 50 December 15th, 1983

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Many of our readers will escape south to warmer climes in the months ahead. If a Florida or Bahamian vacation is part of your winter itinerary, be sure to check out this week's special travel features.

Also, a reminder that this issue is the last of 1983. We will resume publishing with the January 5th issue. Until then, a joyous and safe holiday season to all!

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How Readers Responded To "Endangered Species At Work"

— CHUM LINES — CHUM LINES — CHUM LINES — CHUM LINES — CHUM LINES — CHUM LINES — CHUM LINES —

Mr. Robt. F. Keeler, Editor
Newsday
Dear Mr. Keeler:

I have myself on many days gone down to the beach to watch the haul seiners operate and I must admit that I am a romantic myself as John Cole appears to be. I must inform you that you have performed a disservice to the public by publishing this article.

Mr. Cole states that the sea has not changed and he further states that this method of fishing has been unchanged for more than 2,000 years. Believe me, the sea has changed in the last 2,000 years as a result of pollutants and overharvesting. The sad fact of the matter is that people like Mr. Cole and Mr. Lester do not wish to recognize that management of the sea's resources has become essential for their own good as well as the good of all fishermen.

Your article speaks only of a small group of 35 men who continue to haul seine. If you wish to address the subject properly, you should also publish an article explaining the sport fishing industry on the East End, which supports hundreds of captains and mates and brings millions of dollars each year to the Long Island economy.

I must point out to you that haul seining is not selective in the number or species of fish that are caught. Mr. Cole points out that every fish in a haul seine is caught and each is picked up and put into a carrier. This is totally untrue. I have watched on many mornings when the beach was littered with crabs, dogfish, rays, sundials, small fluke, and even bluefish when the price wasn't high enough to cart them away. Mr. Spencer should have photographed this on the day when the pictures were taken for this article.

Mr. Cole mentions this particular day when 150 pounds of striped bass were caught. I have personally witnessed days when more than 2,000 pounds of striped bass were caught and I can assure you that there was no concern about the big brood fish laying their eggs as the article suggests. It is also ridiculous to suggest that most hook and line fishermen sell their fish. I would suggest that Newsday do an article on the sport fishing industry on Long Island and the thousands of people employed by this industry, as well as the tens of millions of dollars spent each year by the sport fishermen. It is important to relate fishery's management plans to this industry.

No one wishes to see the commercial fishermen out of work. Everyone must realize that prudent management of the seas is important. It is the only way to ensure that every fisherman will be able to fish another day. *Gerard J. Fitzmaurice.*

***

Newsday
Long Island, NY 11747
Dear Letters Editor,

I read, with much interest, your article in the Sunday Newsday Magazine about the haul seiners on Long Island's East End. It was a very well written article, and if I wasn't as interested in fishing as I am, I might have even shed a tear. The article speaks of loss of way of life, and believe me I do not want to see anyone lose their livelihood.

I would like to comment on the waste of fish that is a direct result of haul seining. In the article it stated that bluefish are one of the prime market fish. If this is true, then how come in the last three to four weeks, hundreds, if not thousands of large bluefish from 5 to 20 pounds have been wasted by these same individuals whose livelihood is in jeopardy. On any given morning, when the weather is good and the sea fairly calm, one could ride the beach from Montauk town west through Hither Hills State Park and beyond, and find these fish laying dead on the beach, thrown there by the haul seiners when the market drops out.

I began to wonder how they could discard such a valuable resource. When I spoke to one of these individuals he said he was "damned sick of all these bluefish." Well, thank God that there are bluefish, otherwise these poor haul seiners would have been out of business quite a few years ago. The same day I spoke to this individual, another group of them made a set in front of Gurney's. There were all sort of fish littered about after they left. There were dogfish, sea robins, small flounder, skates, and bluefish. Some of the people who were staying at Gurney's, picked up most of the fish and threw them back in the ocean. It was a shame 90 percent of the fish were long dead. It is a sad day that these same men whose livelihood is threatened cannot return these unwanted fish back into the sea while they are still alive. One has to wonder if a little conservation would be practiced now, maybe we would have these so-called over-abundant bluefish for many more years to come.

There is also the question that a large percentage of the fish that are caught in these nets, are caught within the boundary of Hither Hills State Park and I wonder if this is not against state law?

When Governor Cuomo signed the 24 inch striped bass law into effect, the East End commercial fishermen made the most noise against the bill, saying it would put them out of business. Thank God the Governor had the foresight to think of the fish and not the commercial interests. I just wish the Governor could have seen all the wasted dead bluefish laying around on the beach. I'm sure it would have convinced him that he made the right decision. *John Schauer.*

***

Dear Mr. Cole,

Although it's been a few years since I read "Striper," I still remember it as one of the most beautiful books I ever read. I used to read passages to my children at suppertime so they could share my love of this fish as I shared it with you.

As such, your recent article in Newsday entitled "Endangered Species at Work," left me somewhat dismayed. I can understand your motivation for writing this article and your great appreciation for the netters' way of life and I am glad you wrote so extensively on the social and economic loss of that way of life and its effect on the culture of Long Island. However, I don't think that way of life is quite the romantic and noble effort it used to be, nor do I think the men who practice it are the men they used to be. I have enclosed the attached photos and article to illustrate my point and to suggest to you that perhaps your loyalties are misplaced. It is the striper that needs protection, not those who would destroy them and perhaps every living sea creature they could catch in order to make a profit.

I respect and admire you immensely Mr. Cole, because you have led myself and my children to an appreciation of the striper that we may not otherwise have had. However, I sincerely believe you should rethink the issue of the Striped Bass Management Bill, recently passed in New York State, in light of the attached photos and consider that the survival of a species—stripers, blues, weakfish or whatever—is more important, in the cosmic scheme of things, than the survival of any manner of economic life.

Thank you for your interest. *J.M. Kayal.*

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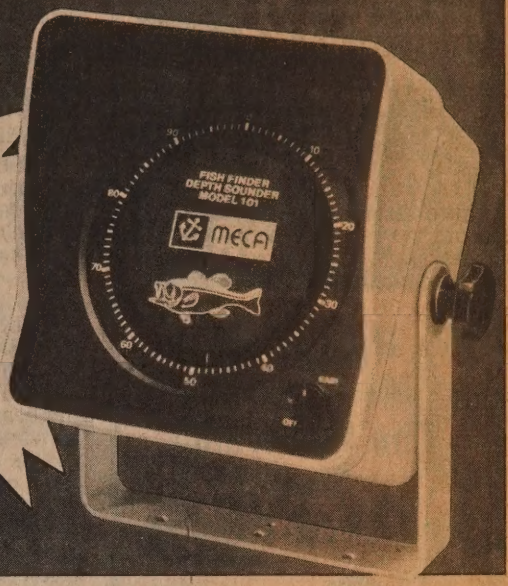

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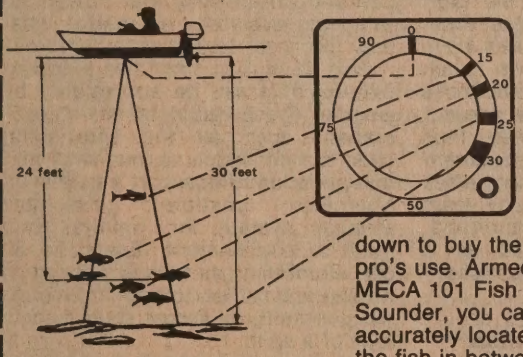

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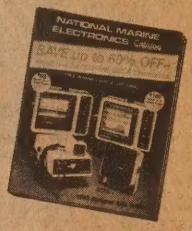

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PASS IT ON...

BLUEFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN NEARS FINAL APPROVAL

We just received word this morning that previous objections to the Plan and several discovered problems with the Plan, proposed originally over three years ago, have been resolved. According to Mr. John Bryson, Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, resolution of these minor obstacles clears the road for final approval of the Bluefish Management Plan at the January meeting of the Council.

The establishment of a management plan for bluefish will be a milestone in fisheries management for two reasons. One, it represents the very rare establishment of a management plan and effort while stocks are high, and second it will all but preclude exploitive growth in the commercial bluefishery thus maintaining bluefish as a recreational species which has been its traditional history. We must not be lulled to sleep by the high availability of bluefish at this time. Both bass and weakfish stocks have been depleted as your own catch records will show, should you choose to review them. The time to prevent disaster is **before a crisis exists**, thus establishing a proper management climate that will permit high stock abundance of bluefish for many years to come. Should we fail in this regard, what with bass and weaks at a premium, our inshore game fishery might well collapse.

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RISTORI/ROCCHETTA FISHING SCHOOL: A PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

The initial fishing school run by LIF associate editor Al Ristori and striped bass world record holder Bob Rocchetta was a big success and another semester is planned for this winter at a central Long Island location. Final arrangements are still pending, but the school will begin in late January and run for six weeks. The course is aimed at those who are not already expert fishermen and fisherwomen, but the last couple of sessions will be attractive to even the expert angler. Space is limited and early reservations are recommended. A $60 fee covers the entire course, and children are welcome at half price. As was the case last year, there will be many free prizes drawn at each session. Some anglers walked away with more than they paid for the course last winter! Send checks or money orders to Bob Rocchetta, 7 Deering St., East Setauket, N.Y. 11733, (516) 751-4803.

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There are many options available to customize this multi-purpose boat. These include a fishing group with optional outriggers and circulating baitwell pump, a canvas group, and even a special diving package.

Many components of the 222 Walkthru are integrally designed, eliminating the problem of working loose over a period of time. These include a depthfinder/radio locker, sink with drain, anchor and dock line storage lockers, as well as the molded-in bow seats. Access to these seats is through a stylish new custom walkthrough windshield.

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My Christmas Wish

By Andy Regina

If I could write to Santa Claus, I'd have to ask him why
He listens to the little kids but seldom you and I.
Our hopes and wishes know no age, neither do our fears,
In fact they often grow deeper through the years.

If I could write to Santa Claus, I wouldn't beg or plead,
Just ask him for some simple things I think that I may need.
Like socks or gloves or underwear, but as long as I was wishing
I'd surely have to make a list of things I want for fishing.

If I could write to Santa Claus, two rods'd be the beginning,
And two reels to complement those rods, one conventional, one spinning
Snaps and swivels, hooks and sinkers, some prefabricated rigs,
New line, some plugs and leaders, and a box of diamond jigs.

If I could write to Santa Claus, a new boat would be nice,
And a motor while you're at it, fifty horses will suffice.
A chart recorder is a must, Loran's a must now too,
And a radio's a necessity, a VHF will do.

If I could write to Santa Claus, I'd make it very clear
That I'd be as contented with presents not as dear.
I'd settle for new waders if a boat's beyond his reach,
'Cause I'd be just as happy, fishing from the beach.

If I could write to Santa Claus, I'd say it would be nice
If he'd make the summers cooler, and the winters have less ice.
If he'd make the fishing tough enough to keep my interest perking,
But make the fish bite often, so fishing doesn't seem like working.

But men can't write to Santa Claus, that saint that all kids love,
They must beseech a higher court, in heaven up above.
So God, If you are listening, please grant me this one wish:
Health and Peace for all of us, and time enough to fish.

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POOL WINNING TIPS

by Matt Ahern

An old hand at the cod game tells how to up your chances of walking off with the pool.

If you've never won a big-fish pool, or won so few for the amount of times you've participated, it is my thought that you are doing something wrong. That proverbial law of averages so many fishermen rely on may eventually win you a pool, but the consistent pool winner puts no stock in such trite foolishness. Consistent pool winners work at it—make no mistake about that.

When I first began party boat fishing, which was well over a half-century ago, I was content to take my pool winning chances along with everyone else. I didn't know there were certain "things" fishermen could do to heighten the probability of garnering an extra pool or two.

I had always been told by the many neighborhood old-timers that the best spot for cod when fishing aboard party boats was the bow. (I know I'll get flack about that statement; but let it fall where it may. My head is bloody, but unbowed.) I didn't know why the bow held such promise, but I blindly accepted what I'd been told.

I caught my share of cod along with everyone else, but I saw no noticeable increase over those who fished from the stern or midships. But I continued to fish the bow on nice days because this was "the thing to do." Then I began to win an extra pool now and then—instead of one a month, let's say, I was coming up with two, and if I were extra "lucky," perhaps three.

Then one day back in those golden years of superb fishing, the apparent reason for this good fortune was explained by "on-the-spot" observation.

Even though I was only a boy in his mid-teens at that time, when it came to codfishing I was always an early bird. Time meant nothing to me...I couldn't sleep anyway. Most all party boats of that time were advertised to leave between 6 and 7:15 AM. However, this advertised time was a mere formality during codfishing time. I'll tell you, fellers, the codfishing was so great, it wasn't difficult for popular skippers to "fill up" and then leave before 5AM. (Captain Fred Wrege of the old Effort III from Sheepshead Bay readily comes to mind. Now, there was a codfishing skipper par excellance!) The thought was: why wait when one might possibly need a shoe horn to squeeze late-comers aboard?

Now, I know there are Doubting Thomases among us and I'm sure these fellows are taking what I just said with a grain of salt. But let me say to those who have such little faith in old Matt that those were the days when codfishing skippers kept wheelbarrows available at dockside so that their passengers could more easily transport their catch to cars, or whatever. I kid you not. Golden years? Ah, yes.

Despite the high percentage of pool winners taken from the bow of party packets, the stern rail is still favored by many regulars.

Now, as I say, I was always an early bird, but on this one particular morning I want to tell you about, I wasn't early enough. As I stepped aboard Canarsie's old Rose R II, through the dark and gloom I could sense rather than see another fisherman standing on the bow. And I was right. I'll admit I felt resentful, for I had gotten to thinking that the bow was "my spot." But there was not a thing I could do about it.

This fisherman was tall and lanky, and about forty, although his actual age is up for grabs simply because to a 15-year-old anyone over the age of twenty appears as old as Methuselah. He seemed pleasant enough and even as a kid I knew this fellow was the real goods. No braggart or know-it-all was he. I no longer remember this fisherman's name, but I recall his telling me that he resided in Gloucester and he'd come to Long Island to visit his family over the Christmas holidays. Now, there, he said, in Gloucester, was where the codfishing was always good, winter and summer. There were certain codfishing methods used by Gloucester party boat fishermen, he said, that ought to be used by us fellows. And one of these methods he showed me that day was, I'm sure, the reason why so many pool winning codfish are caught from the bow.

What follows is the gist of what this Gloucester fisherman told me about bow-fishing for cod. I've tried these suggestions over the years and they work—which isn't to say I nail the cod pool every time I go out. But I suspect I get more than my rightful share of them; at least that's what I've been told.

When codfishing from the bow, current strength is of prime importance, so said my Gloucester fisherman. To determine current strength, try an eight-ounce sinker first. Should this weight hold your rig in one place without moving off, use an ordinary

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cod hook (which to me means a 5/0 regular-shanked Sproat) snelled to a 12 inch leader. If a 10 ounce sinker is needed to hold bottom, use a 5/0 Sproat on an 18 inch leader (40 pound test). Currents demanding 12 or more ounces of weight require a leader of three feet. I have gone to four foot leaders in strong, full moon tides, but refuse to go beyond that. (My Gloucester fisherman told me he had gone to as much as six feet, but between you, me, and that proverbial lamppost, I don't see how such a length can be handled and not worry about snarls about the main line.) Place your leader or snelled hook three feet above the sinker. Use no bottom hook.

Now, I know you are wondering why increasing leader length in fast currents attracts large cod. I don't know, nor did my erstwhile Gloucester fisherman—but he did give me thoughts on why his method might be so successful.

His belief was that the unfamiliar sound of the current thrumming against the tightly-drawn main line aroused the cod's curiosity, which, in turn, caused it to investigate. If this is so, bow fishermen also have the anchor cable working for them—which could also be the reason bow fishing for cod is good. And when one adds to it the thrumming of the fisherman's rig, there is no question in my mind that such fishermen have it made.

I believe, too, that it is at this precise moment of investigation when the cod's attention is drawn to the free lunch dangling so enticingly before it. This, of course, is all speculation, but I've considered the pros and cons over the years and it's the best I've been able to come up with.

While on the subject of free lunch for outsize cod, never overload your hook with bait. (I expect more flack on this, too, but hey, what the heck). Don't fall for the old saw that says big baits catch big fish. I've found it doesn't apply to cod. No single error on your part while codfishing will keep you from a pool winning fish as this misconception.

When codfishing, I never use more than half a medium-sized skimmer, or a third of a large one. I won't use small skimmers unless I first nick them several times through the soft stomach to get the juices flowing in the current. I also make it a point to change my bait frequently; fishermen must appeal to the cod's appetite, and leached-out bait won't do it.

Allow the line to remain still—always fish a "dead" line; compensate for the rise and fall of the boat by reel action only. **Don't move the rig!** If you do, you will have undone all the effort required to find the correct sinker weight.

When fishing this method, I've found cod seldom signal their presence. Most will snuggle up to the bait, engulf it, and hold on. Only by occasionally checking (careful here) does the fisherman realize he's hooked a cod. Sink the hook home for extra security and the fish is yours.

When gaffing, be sure whoever does the job gaffs the cod in the head. No belly or body gaffing if it can be avoided. Many pools are decided by ounces and a badly gaffed cod is sure to lose body juices before weigh-in time.

Cod aren't the only big fish available to party boat anglers. Fluke run large and when sea fishing for them, big baits do pay off.

Once again, let's fish the bow—this time for outsized fluke. Bait up with two identical 6 inch strips of squid or fluke belly, at least an inch wide and tapered to resemble the streamlined shape of a baitfish. It is important to have each strip the same length, otherwise it may wrap around the hook shank.

Place these two baits on a 5/0 Carlisle or Kirby hook snelled to a three foot, 20 pound test leader. (These hooks are long-shanked; if you nail a large fluke, you'll be glad you've got them going for you.) If fishing around sunken wrecks, a leader of four feet seems to produce better. Some fishermen like to use fluke spinners for added enticement, but I find the extra hardware detracts from the bait's action.

Large, live killies work well along the ocean beaches, as do large spearing (not frozen) and sand eels, also not frozen. So, too, will tail strips from large sea robins. If you're lucky enough to catch a dogfish, **don't** throw it back. Slice off the sides and cut each into long strips, similar to squid bait preparation. You won't find a better bait for doormat fluke than dogfish.

If there's any secret to catching large fluke, it has to be in the bait's presentation. Keep that bait bouncing off bottom by continuous jigging. Every ten or twelve jigs, really raise that bait high off bottom and let it flutter back. Let it lie still for a few seconds, then tighten up the slack as you feel cautiously for the fish. If there's a large fluke in the vicinity be prepared for a merry few minutes.

A strip of porgy makes an excellent bait for large fluke. Don't scale. In fact, it is unwise to scale any fish you intend using for fluke bait. To do so leaves much to be desired in the bait's feel and appearance. To connect with large fluke, take advantage of every aid you can.

Blackfish are always a challenge, but because their lifestyle differs from most local fish, the methods described can't be used.

There is only one way to purposely try for a pool winning blackfish and that is to fish the worst part of the wreck or rock-strewn bottom. These are easy to find. Just look for the fisherman who is continuously hung-up. You'll see him leave his spot at the rail. That's your signal to move in.

I'll grant you the method I suggest will cost terminal gear. There's no way around that. But if you use but

one low hook and fasten the sinker to the main line with a piece of weak string, you will cut your losses.

Big blackfish get that way by being more cautious than their brethren, which means you must also be cautious when fishing for them. Bait up with a good-sized piece of crab on a #4 Virginia hook. (This style is known as the blackfish hook, and is the only type to use for blackfishing.) This crab bait can be green, blue, or calico—though my preference leans to the green crab. I'm not too keen on fiddlers when fished this way because bergalls work them over too much. Forget skimmer clam—or any clam. Bait stealers will strip the hook clean in seconds.

Once the bait is on bottom, allow it to remain perfectly still, even if you must strip line from your reel to do so. Watch the rod tip, but ignore the light tappings of small fish. If these taps cease abruptly, you are about to have company. Be prepared. The instant the rod tip is yanked downward, come back on the fish with all you can muster.

There's good reason for this. There is no way to tell if the fish is facing toward or away from the obstruction, so you've got to drive that hook home and get the fish started in one operation.

Hold the rod high and don't lower it until you've got that fish at least ten feet off bottom. Don't give a blackfish an inch! If you do, it's all over. Try again. Believe me when I tell you it sometimes takes sheer strength to accomplish this. Should you react halfheartedly, the blackfish will instantly become aware of what's going on and will drive itself deeply into the most cluttered part of the obstruction.

This usually means a lost fish (and rigging), but sometimes blackfish can be out-foxed by giving slack and sweating it out. Occasionally, this works; but don't count too much on it. Better to always be alert. You'll bring home more blackfish if you are.

Smaller fish such as mackerel, flounder, sea bass, porgies, ling and whiting, are best left to chance. I've tried over the years to work out a method which will consistently nail the larger ones, but without success.

One last thing, but very important. If you believe you have a pool winning fish, treat it with loving care. Don't allow it to lie exposed to the sun and wind. Cover with burlap, if possible—and keep it wet! And don't exhibit around the boat. The less a fish is handled in this respect, the better. The time to show your fish is after you've won the pool—not before!

And never, never clean your largest fish before weigh-in time—even if you think you haven't a chance at winning. Check first. I can tell you some sad stories about this.

So, I've given you something to thing about over winter. The pool fish is out there waiting for you.

Good luck in the New Year! Which means a pool fish for you.

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MAKE YOUR OWN REFERENCE GUIDE

by Michael Intindoli

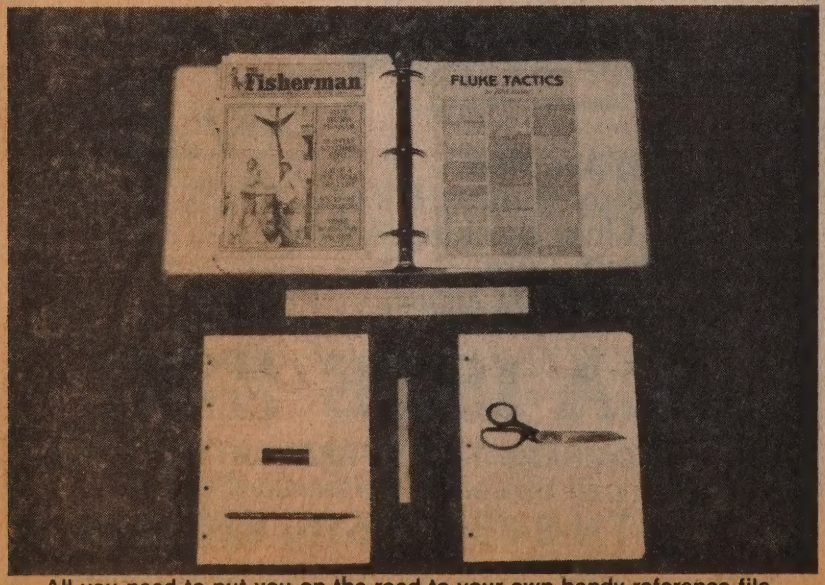
Here is a neat way for Fisherman readers to store all of that helpful reference material.

I am sure there are many sport fishermen out there who, like myself, eat and sleep fishing. Hardly a week goes by when I am either reading a fishing article, watching a television show about fishing or actually participating in the sport by fishing on one of Long Island's south shore bays or on Long Island Sound. Anything to do with fishing invariably catches my eye. I have spent many hours reading, or should I say studying fishing articles over the last 15 years. I've always felt that fishing is perhaps 75 percent knowledge and 25 percent luck. I know some people might disagree with these figures, but this has been my experience. How else is an avid fisherman able to catch fish time after time? I doubt it is mostly luck.

Anyway, a little over five years ago, I decided to subscribe to The Fisherman. Each week, I eagerly await the arrival of my copy so I can keep up-to-date on what is happening on the fishing scene. I might add that I find this magazine to be the most comprehensive publication concerning saltwater fishing on the market today. Where else can a person find such a wealth of information on the subject of saltwater fishing?

Over the years I have saved almost every copy of The Fisherman for use as reference material. Before going out fishing after a particular species of fish, I would thumb through some of my back copies and re-read any articles pertaining to these fish in order to increase my knowledge, and thereby increase my chances of catching them. It's amazing how things pile up so quickly. Over the years, I must have acquired well over 200 Fisherman magazines. Due to the fact that these magazines were mounting fast and remembering that, at times, I was slightly annoyed about having to clumsily search my way through them each time I was looking for a particular article, I decided that something had to be done. What I decided to do, and I don't know why I didn't think of this earlier, was to consolidate certain articles in these magazines into one reference guide.

What follows is based on the assumption that you are keeping your back copies of The Fisherman. Frankly, I can't see why anyone wouldn't keep them. In my opinion, discarding them would be like throwing away not only knowledge, but also your hard-earned money. As I mentioned before, they make great reference material.



All you need to put you on the road to your own handy reference file.

Creating your own fishing guide might seem to some to be a lot of work, but I can't think of a better way for a true fisherman to spend his time during those cold winter months than to do something relating to fishing. This will give you something to do while you're waiting for spring to arrive. Personally, I found creating this reference guide more enjoyable than watching some of those nonsense shows on the boob tube night after night. In addition, wouldn't it be great to have at your fingertips an up-to-date reference guide that tells you almost everything you want to know about fish and fishing? Enough on trying to convince you why you should make a reference guide; now let's get down to how to do it.

First of all, let me list all the materials you will need. They are relatively inexpensive and can be obtained, if you don't already have them, at any store that carries stationery supplies. If you have to buy them, they should cost around $9 or $10. They are as follows:

Loose Leaf Binder (preferably with large rings); red pen; ruler; size 11"x8½" loose leaf paper; cellophane tape and/or a glue stick; dividers with index tabs or just tabs and make your own dividers out of cardboard; and scissors.

Once you have obtained the materials, the next step is to gather all your copies of The Fisherman that might be laying around the house. These magazines need not be in chronological order, although this would help in that you would have all the same subject matter together; i.e., flounder articles, fluke articles, etc. Next, look through each copy and carefully tear out any article that interests you. At this point, I would recommend including any article that even remotely interests you. I say this so you won't have to say to yourself six months down the road, "Gee, I should have included some articles on this or that in my guide." I speak only from experience. Naturally, every article in each magazine can be included, but I'll leave that decision up to you. Just remember, once those remaining articles are discarded, they're gone forever.

The next step, and I say this with some hesitation, is to read all the

articles that you have decided to keep and using a red pen and a ruler (let's be neat about it), underline any statements which you consider important such as baits, hook sizes, fishing techniques, etc. and anything else that might seem significant to you. I hesitated slightly in mentioning this step because I know a lot of you will think this is very time consuming. Well, maybe it is, but I can assure you it is better to highlight this information now, thus saving yourself a great deal of time later when all you will have to do is turn to an article and you'll have this vital information right at your disposal. Obviously, the time spent performing this step depends on the number of articles you have to read. As I stated earlier, I had over 200 magazines. This resulted in my having to re-read approximately 90 articles. You can imagine what I went through. I must admit that, at times, I did find this to be repetitious; however, it was also enlightening in that I refreshed my memory on things that I had previously forgotten or just missed.

After this step is completed, group the articles under various headings such as fluke, flounder, bluefish, tackle, fishing tips, recipes, miscellaneous information, etc., or any other subject you have chosen to be included in your guide. Tape or glue each article onto a piece of loose leaf paper. I recommend the 11''x8½'' size paper because The Fisherman articles seem to fit better on this size paper with minimum trimming involved. Attach the index tabs, which have been labeled with the headings to the dividers. Insert the completed dividers into the binder. Here I would recommend putting the tabs in alphabetical order for easy access. Last of all, file each group of completed articles into the binder under its respective heading. Well, there you have it.

I put my reference guide together about six months ago. Presently, I have two full binders containing 23 headings. I find myself adding a new heading every so often as my interests expand. I have also included articles from other fishing magazines, newspapers, etc., along with pictures of myself and my family with the fish we have caught. You might say my reference doubles as a scrapbook as well.

Now when I receive my weekly copy of The Fisherman, I immediately underline those statements that I consider important and insert the article right into the guide.

I have referred to this guide numerous times since its creation and at times was amazed at the amount of information I had accumulated about a particular subject. A couple of times I've lent this guide to fellow fishermen and received rave reviews.

Well, that's about it. Why not get started on your own reference guide? It will help pass those long winter nights and just might help you put more fish in the box come next spring.

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BUDGET FISHING IN THE KEYS

by Ike Wirgin

A unique brand of bottom fishing awaits the vacationing Florida Keys bound angler.

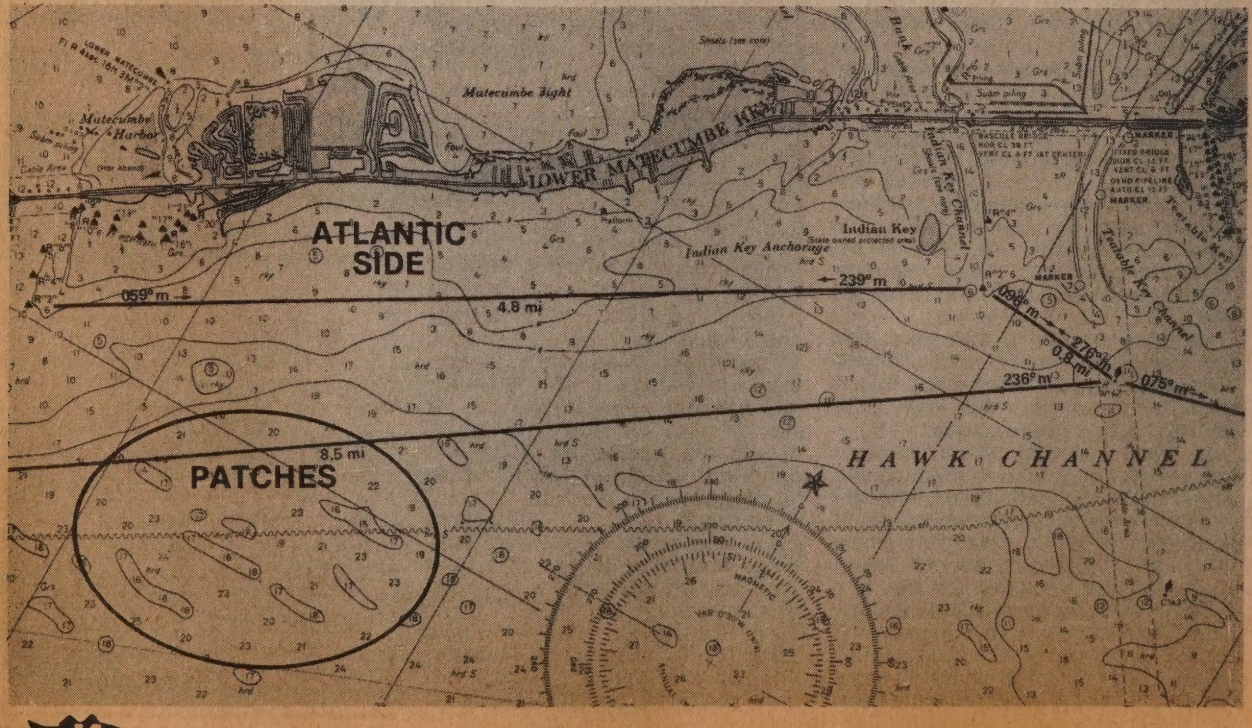
For the vacationing Florida-bound fisherman, the cost of air fare, car rental, accommodations, and meals often take a large bite out of the travel budget, leaving little money for actual fishing. On top of that, articles in most popular fishing periodicals describe fabulous fishing trips on either large charter boats or guided skiffs. Unfortunately, at last look, all day charter rates in south Florida averaged about $400 while guides were charging approximately $200 for the same period. In addition, I, for one, do not derive much enjoyment from dragging a trolled bait or artificial through the water for eight hours as experienced on most charter boats. It is the crew's skill which accounts for the day's catch, not the angler. Angler participation is certainly encouraged on guided skiffs; however, the peak tourist season coincides with the worst fishing for the two glamor species—bonefish and tarpon.

Party boats do provide a moderately priced alternative; however, the vast majority are not geared to the serious fisherman. This is evidenced by their sailing schedules. Half-day trips predominate and even full-day excursions leave the dock at an hour more popular with the tourist crowd than the serious fisherman. Party boat operations such as those found in Montauk, Freeport, or Captree, which we take for granted, simply are very rare in south Florida.

Having faced this dilemma on my winter vacations, I, too, resorted to party boat fishing with an occasional successful kingfish trip punctuating a long string of disappointments. During Christmas week several years ago, I enjoyed a memorable party boat trip on the Capt. Winner out of Islamorada in the mid-Florida Keys. Unlike most of their competitors, the crew of this vessel had gone to the trouble and effort of obtaining live pilchards by seining the bait in the early morning hours prior to sailing. These small baitfish proved to be like candy to the schools of kingfish we encountered that day. Fishing was so good that we even managed to boat a half dozen African pompano, a species not frequently encountered in party boat fishing.

Hoping for a repeat performance several days later, I once again boarded the Capt. Winner in eager anticipation of a big day. However, it soon became apparent that not enough fellow fishermen were to appear that day to warrant the boat's sailing. Rather than return to poolside at the motel for the day, the captain arranged for his bait supplier, Robbie Reckwerdt to drive me to a nearby awaiting party packet which would be sailing shortly. That brief car ride proved to be the turning point in my Florida fishing career.

Having expressed my disappointment to Robbie about my past Florida fishing failures, Robbie revealed that not only was he a bait dealer, he owned the Capt. Winner, and in addition he owned a boat rental station on nearby Lower Matecumbe Key which could serve as the perfect launching site for just the type of fishing I desired. He explained how he could easily direct me to excellent rental boat fishing for a variety of



bottom feeding species including grouper and snapper. Having spent the last 15 years fishing from a 14 foot Duranautic, this fishing seemed just my cup of tea. In fact, as it turned out, it far exceeded even my wildest expectations.

To ensure my success that first morning, Robbie led the way to the grounds in his own boat, and showed me exactly where to anchor. Action was instaneous, and continued at a torrid pace throughout the day. It was so fast that in a short time, I had to go back in to replenish my bait supply. The fish eagerly awaited my return, for there was no letup in the action. The catch consisted of a mixed bag including mangrove and mutton snapper, black grouper, hogfish, porkfish and porgy. Of course, many grunt were also around to deplete my bait supply. Unlike bottom fishing in northern climes where a single, or perhaps two species dominate most of the activity for the day, in this case one never knew what type of fish to expect next. Considering the diverse array of species prevalent on coral reefs, such occurrences are the norm.

Size of the fish was quite impressive for the typical skiff fisherman, although obviously not comparable to that encountered on the offshore grounds for the same species. Grouper ran between 4 and 10 pounds, while snapper, hogfish and porgy were smaller, in the 2 to 5 pound range. All of the species caught that day make for some excellent eating. In fact, I filleted the entire catch, froze them, and transported them back to New York in my ice chest with a small amount of dry ice. They provided superb eating for the rest of that winter.

Since that first trip, several return engagements have netted equally satisfying results. While catch ratios of the different species have varied among trips, the end result has invariably been an impressive catch.

This fishing has occurred in an area on the Atlantic side of Lower Matecumbe Key (just south of Islamorada) called the "Patches" or "White Rocks." This area located several miles offshore, consists of a series of small coral patches interspersed on a white limestone bottom in about 15 to 20 feet of water. They can be seen clearly by the naked eye on most days by simply looking over the side of the boat into the water. The patches appear as dark areas over a lighter bottom background. In addition, due to the presence of these patches, there are many lobster markers in the same general vicinity in the winter season. The only problem in locating the patches occurs after a prolonged period of onshore winds which may effectively reduce the clarity of the water and thereby obscure the patches. In that situation, the lobster markers can be of great assistance in at least getting you into the general vicinity.

Once the patches have been located, the boat is anchored uptide of the selected bottom. Chumming is practiced by lowering a mesh bag loaded with frozen, ground, oily fish behind the boat. In a short time, the chum generally attracts a multitude of various baitfish to the area including ballyhoo and a mackerel look-a-like.

Rigging is quite simple. A 3/0 Eagle Claw baitholder hook is snelled to a two-foot length of 30 pound leader material. This is attached to a small barrel swivel. The line with a one to two ounce sliding egg sinker in place is tied to the other end of the barrel swivel. I generally use 20 pound class conventional class tackle for this fishing. Be prepared with plenty of extra terminal rigging, as the coral takes its toll.

The conventional bait used in the area is live shrimp which sell for about $1.25 per dozen. However, with all the grunt in the area it is quite easy to go through ten dozen shrimp in several hours. An alternative bait which I have found very effective and readily available is grunt fillet. The first few grunts caught are filleted, and the whole side of grunt is placed on the hook and allowed to flutter a la fluke fishing. Invariably, the grunt fillets catch the largest and most grouper for the day.

Quite frequently, the chum attracts schools of top water gamesters to the area also. Seasonally, cero mackerel, kingfish and permit are available in the same area. Traditionally, I set out an extra 30 pound outfit without any sinker to attract these fish. The bait is once again grunt fillet. I have had many runoffs which have stripped my reel or cut me off.

While I have restricted my fishing to the patches off Lower Matecumbe Key, I'm sure equally productive bottom fishing stretches the entire length of the Florida Keys. Rental stations with attractive rates abound in the Keys, so securing a boat is no problem at almost any area. While this fishing is done several miles out in the Atlantic Ocean, a further offshore reef running the entire length of the Keys, serves to dramatically reduce inshore wave action. Therefore, large swells do not generally reach these inshore locations. As a result, most days are fishable even from a small boat.

Patch fishing starts in late October and runs through late April. Peak fishing occurs during the coldest months which fortunately coincides with the height of the tourist season. When the water warms too much, these fish move out to the deeper reefs.

If you are looking for affordable fishing with plenty of action during your Florida winter vacation, "Patch" fishing should fit the bill. Accommodations and restaurants in the Islamorada area are both plentiful and moderately priced, even during peak tourist season. A call or visit to the folks at Robbie's Rent A Boat at mile marker 77 in Islamorada (305-664-4351) will clue you in to the latest fishing conditions and rental rates.

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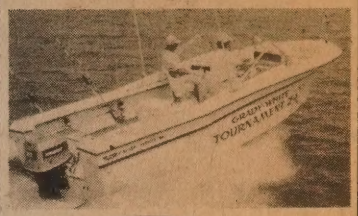

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Winter Paradise

by Pete Barrett

Key West is special. It makes an impression on you that lingers through the rest of the year and draws on your senses calling you to return. The fishing is very good, with everything from marlin to snappers, amberjack to sailfish and tarpon to permit, plus a host of other game fish that are available throughout the year depending on the season.

To top it all off, the restaurants, gift shops, sightseeing tours and ambiance of the city is enough to appeal to any fisherman's wife stranded on shore during the day while dad fishes. Or, better yet, the many friendly guides and charter skippers will go out of their way to make sure your wife has just as good a time fishing as you do if you take her along.

My wife, Linda and I have enjoyed many pleasant trips to Key West feasting on the good food, enjoying the sights and most importantly for me, experiencing some terrific fishing. Once you try Key West yourself, you'll be back many times, too.

If you decide to head to the tip of the United States (you can't go further south once you hit the end of US A1A unless you have a boat!), it would pay to make your reservations as early as possible to be sure of a motel booking.

Key West Harbor is well known for its tarpon fishing and many times you

Al Ristori gaffs a cobia caught on a Gulf wreck aboard the author's "Makaira." The 30 pounder hit a live snapper and was caught on 12 pound spinning gear.

will be hooked up within shouting distance of the tourists at Mallory Square dock. Live mullet or pinfish are the main live baits, but many fish can also be taken on plugs and bucktails. Bucktails of 3/4 to 1½ ounces are best on the outgoing tide bounced right along the bottom. You can also troll tarpon on big Rebels, Bombers, Atom Jrs. and Rapalas at dawn, dusk and at night.

To the north of Key West lie several wrecks that produce grouper, barracuda, snappers, permit and cobia. Cobia are especially hard fighting fish and lots of fun to catch. The technique here is to find the wreck with your Loran, anchor just off the wreck allowing enough anchor line to set on top of it. Bottom fish for small grunts, snappers and other baitfish which you then liveline for the cobia.

Some of these wrecks have enormous barracuda on them and taken on metal, long tubes or live bait, they are top-notch sport.

Most of the sailfish action is along the Atlantic side of Key West along the many reefs that stretch all along the Keys from Key Largo to the Marquesas. Live ballyhoo, if you can get them are good live baits, so are pilchards, but many fish are also taken trolling small skirted lures, strip baits or skirted rigged ballyhoo.

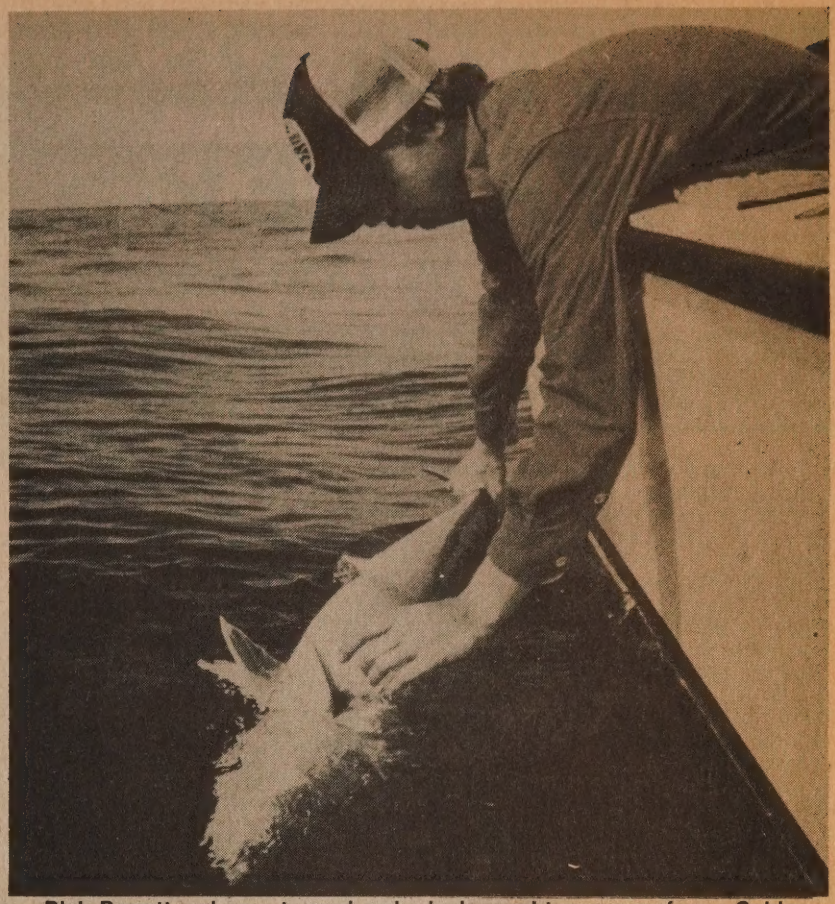
There are also some interesting wrecks along the Atlantic side and several excellent reefs that hold amberjack, cobia, cero mackerel, king mackerel (kingfish) and barracuda. Most of the amberjack you find here are in the 25 to 60 pound range and readily take diamond jigs of four to six ounces. Be sure to rig them with extra strong hooks or the jacks will straighten the standard hooks.

Bottom fishing the reefs is good sport and you can use bucktails with strips of bally for some sweetener.

If the action is slow with the usual fishing methods you can try a trusty wire line outfit to troll along the deep edge of the reefs. While light tackle may be far more sporting, on a day when you aren't catching a thing, the wire can save face and pull in a few grouper, kingfish, and even an occasional sailfish is caught on a trolled plug or skirted ballyhoo.

If shark fishing is your thing, Key West has some real hummers—sharks of huge size. We've caught big bulls, hammerheads and even makos are reported occasionally. Instead of drifting as we do at home, we anchor near a dropoff and chum until the action starts. The rigs are the same and so is the tackle—just the sharks are different species.

If big game is your thing, then Key West is again for you. In the last three years so many blue marlin have been caught off Key West that many folks call it the new "marlin Capital of the World." That's a mighty big claim, but you can't deny the fact that numerous blues in the 200 to 500 pound class have been caught here. Unlike our runs to the canyons, Key Westers run about 10 miles south of the harbor and are fishing in 600 to 1,000 feet of water!



Rich Barrett revives a tagged amberjack caught over a reef on a Spider diamond jig. The fish weighed about 50 pounds and was caught on 30 pound line.

Big game to flats, jumping tarpon to deep fighting amberjack—Key West is a wintertime New Jersey fisherman's dream come true. Take a break from the cold, snow and winds to enjoy some angling adventures to help you make it to the spring and the start of our own 1984 season. See you there—I'll be the guy at Sloppy Joe's with the sunburn and the Marguerita!

★ ★ ★ TACKLE SHOPS ★ ★ ★

- Anglers Service—(305) 296-8919
- Boog Powell's Anglers Marina—(305) 296-8504
- Oceanside Marina—(305) 294-4676
- Master Angler—(305) 294-0045

★ ★ ★ CHARTS ★ ★ ★

- NOAA Charts #11442 and #11434. Available at New Jersey marine supply stores.
- "Florida Sportsman" chart #703, Key West and Lower Keys. $4.95 from Florida Sportsman, 2701 So. Bayshore Dr., Miami, Florida 33133.

★ ★ ★ BOOKS ★ ★ ★

- Stu Apte's "Fishing in the Florida Keys." $3.95 from Windward Publishing Co., 105 NE 25th St., P.O. Box 371005, Miami, Florida 33137.

★ ★ ★ MOTELS ★ ★ ★

- Casa Marina Resort (Marriott), Att. Susan Schmohl, Reynold St. on the Ocean, Key West 33040, (305) 296-3535.
- Key West Visitors Bureau, Box 1147, Key West 33041. Ask for complete list of all motels, restaurants and tours. 800-432-5330.

★ ★ ★ GUIDES ★ ★ ★

- Gil & Linda Drake, Box 4144, Key West 33040, (305) 294-4676, ext. 691.
- Mark Williams, 3322 Flagler Ave., Key West 33040.
- Many others listed in the Visitor's Bureau info package. Guides & charter captains also available at Boog Powell's & Oceanside Marina.

WINTER RESPITE AT WALKER'S CAY

by Don Kamienski

Angling opportunities with barracuda, bonefish and reef species abound on this Bahamian island.

I don't know if it was the below freezing temperatures, or the snow flurries that were swirling around my uncovered ears, but something suggested that I should be considering a little warmer weather during the winter months. Last February my spouse, Helen, and I farmed out the kids to a pair of agreeable grandparents and headed towards the Eldred Trout Preserve in New York State for a long weekend of cross country skiing and ice fishing. While the weatherman didn't necessarily cooperate to produce ideal skiing conditions, he did produce enough snow flurries and cold temperatures that would certainly tempt a wiser man to head south for warmer climates. Brother, was it cold!!

As I sat on the edge of one of Eldred's half-frozen ponds pulling out rainbow trout in the one to two pound class on just about every cast (as part of their annual Ice Fishing Derby), I found myself reading a color brochure which was conveniently placed in my jacket (by, I suspect, my better half) which described the advantages of spending a few days at Walker's Cay in the Bahamas. There is a relationship of ownership between Eldred and Walker's. The brochure had pictures of whopper fish, gin clear water, tons of lavishly prepared food, and luxury accommodations to greet the half-frozen eyeballs of this angler. It wasn't until a cold blast of Arctic style wind blew the brochure out of my hand and onto and across the ice, that I made up my mind to sample some of the inviting scenes shown in the pamphlet.

Our initial trip to this 100-acre island which lies 150 miles east of Fort Lauderdale took place a few weeks ago, and should you be looking for a restful place that has some excellent fishing plus the natural air conditioning of tropical breezes, let me describe for you what we found at Walker's. Then, you can make up your own mind as to whether you'd like to sample this area.

One of the nice things we found in making our arrangements to stay at Walker's is that they have package plans which includes not only your room and two meals a day, but also includes the round trip air fare from Fort Lauderdale. One such package is their "Get Lost" plan which is good until February 29, 1984, and includes accommodations, full breakfast and dinner, and air travel from Florida for $199 per person-double occupancy. Incidentally, this price is for four days and three nights (Sun-Wed). A quick toll free call to Walker's Florida office, (800) 327-3714, will get you all the information you need about this plan as well as other packages that are available.

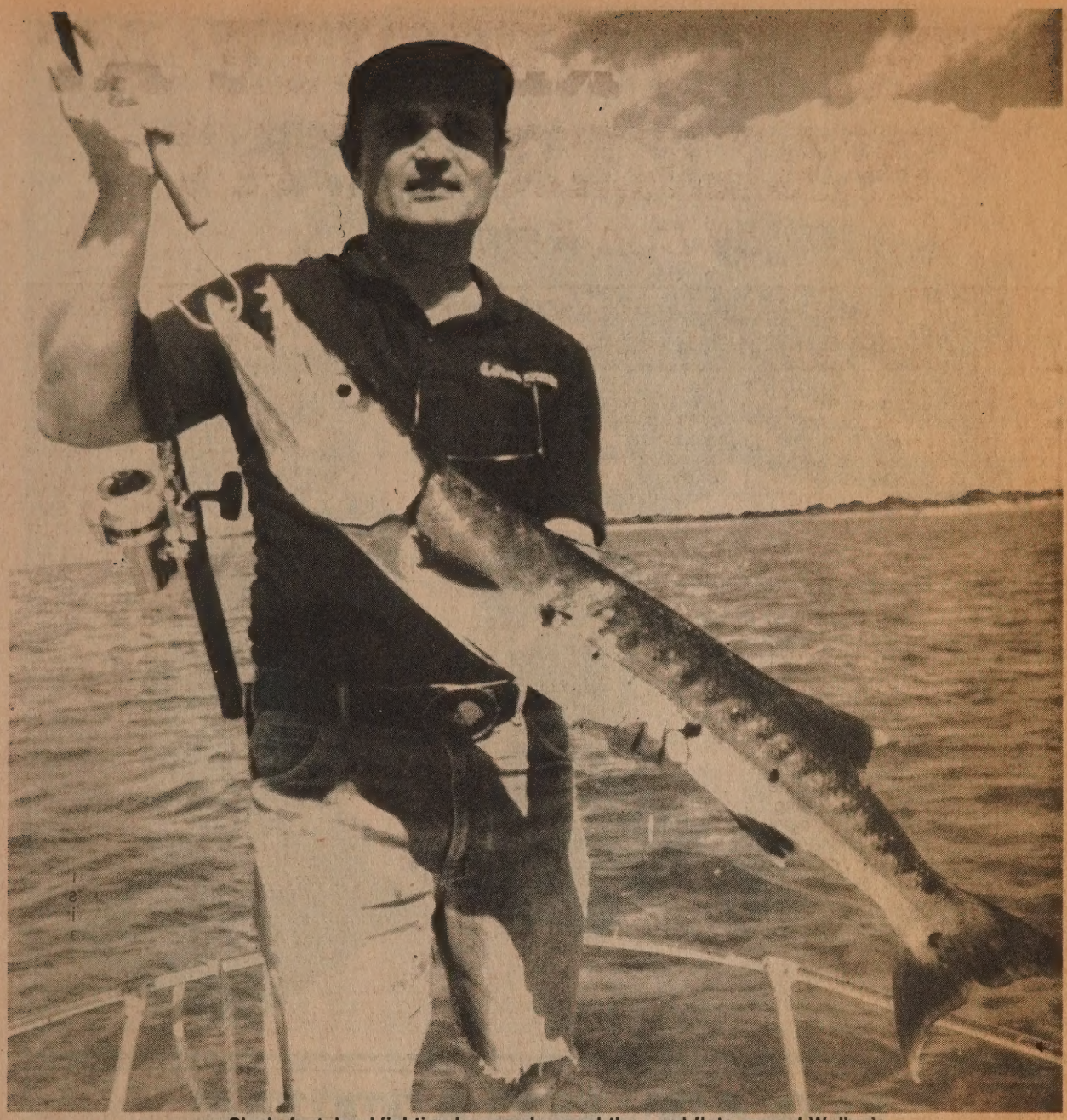
Legend has it that Ponce de Leon landed at Walker's Cay in 1513 after several months of shipboard travel, but it only took us 45 minutes by air to reach this island of coconut palm trees and tropical flowers from Fort Lauderdale. As we were landing on the 2500 foot runway, we were surrounded by a blend of sparkling green and shimmering sapphire-blue water. Can you imagine acres upon acres of both shallow and deep water areas that are all productive fish-wise, and nary another boat is in sight? After we arrived and were checked through customs, I asked our Bahamian guide about our available fishing choices. He replied that such species as wahoo, dolphin, grouper, yellowtail snapper, bonefish, shark, blue marlin, king mackerel, sailfish and barracuda were currently in local waters. Since I wanted to christen a pair of new lightweight spinning sticks, I initially opted to try the sand flats which were located on the south side of the island.

On one particular flat, we noticed several schools of decent size barracuda that were slowly cruising the area where the flat met some deeper water. It didn't take many casts of an orange colored 'Cuda Tube lure which is manufactured by Spider to tempt a sleek barracuda into charging the offering from 60 feet away. When this first fish of the day smashed my wife's lure and began a series of drag screeching runs along with cartwheeling leaps, the excitement of fighting her first 'cuda was evident. Some people may look upon this species with disfavor, but catching them on lightweight spinning outfits with 10 to 12 pound test line is pure enjoyment in my book. A quick gaff plus a few well-placed blows with a wooden mallet placed our first Walker's fish in the cooler. Most of the fish we caught were kept and later consumed by the Bahamian guides. While our guide indicated that barracuda were not overly choosy about the color of a lure, we found that an unweighted 12 to 14 inch tube lure in either orange or yellow in color produced the most fish. Just be sure to keep up a fast retrieve so that the lure skitters across the surface of the water, and don't forget to precede the lure with a short length of black wire leader.

After catching several of the barracudas, we opted to try another sand flat that was approximately two miles away for bonefish. To tempt the "grey ghost" of the flats, we used fresh conch which was placed on an unweighted hook. As we entered this second flat, we saw sharks, bonefish, houndfish, snappers and two out-of-place tarpon whose weight must have exceeded 90 pounds each. The bonefish on this flat were really decent size compared to other areas in the Bahamas with fish averaging six to seven pounds. Stalking these fish in two feet of crystal clear water is a skinny water angler's dream come true.

There are really three kinds of fishing to be experienced at Walker's. You can either opt to go shallow water fishing as described in the previous paragraphs, or go reef fishing for a myriad of multi-colored fish, or finally go offshore fishing for larger species such as wahoo, marlin, and sailfish. One would think that this varied type of fishing would be a good distance apart. Well, in fact, it's not. I was amazed that I could be fishing in waters on the flats that were seldom more than two feet deep, and yet be within easy eyesight of a 50 foot yacht that was trolling in waters that reached depths of 1,000 feet, and both of us were catching fish.

For the three kinds of fishing available, you can either charter (with guide), a 13 foot Whaler ($70 half day) or a 23 foot center console ($110 half day) or a 50 foot yacht ($225 half day). For trolling or bottom fishing, the boats are well equipped with tackle, but if casting is your choice, I'd suggest that you bring along spinning or casting tackle that can handle 10 to 17 pound test line, wire leader, and plenty of lures. As I mentioned before, the Spider 'Cuda Tube lure is



Sleek, fast, hard-fighting barracuda prowl the sand flats around Walker's.

a good choice and so is the Ultimus Nordic type eel in the yellowtail version. This heavier second lure was especially effective during those few days in which the wind made casting of the tube lure somewhat difficult. Another reason for bringing along some spinning tackle is to afford you the opportunity to do some casting from the surf-shaped coral shoreline. Try such places as Morning Beach, Moon Rise Point, the end of the runway, or Sunset Point. All of these spots produced fish for us. The supply of extra tackle at Walker's is very limited, so you'll be doing yourself a favor by bringing extra lures, line, leader, and terminal gear.

Since this area has produced the majority of saltwater IGFA line class records, we tended to concentrate our stay at Walker's around fishing opportunities. However, if you enjoy diving with either a snorkel or scuba tanks, the barrier reef which surrounds this island offers unspoiled sport of this nature. There is a fully equipped dive shop at Walker's, and the staff is very helpful to both novice and experienced divers alike.

You can even take diving lessons in one of the two pools available on the island.

As with all facilities, there are pluses and minuses. At Walker's, the food to me is a minus. Not that it is bad, but rather that it is too good—especially the conch chowder. To any person that has to watch his waistline, the fresh fish table fare at Walker's is a temptation that few food lovers can resist. In fact, the kitchen will even cook for you the fish you've caught that day! So, if you have a problem with an expanding mid-section, my only suggestion is for you to bring along an extra pair of pants with an expandable waistband.

If you can sneak away during the upcoming weeks for a few days of great fishing, diving, food, accommodations and sunsets, with no radio, telephone or television to remind you of your mainland pressures and problems, I'd certainly consider a trip to Walker's Cay for a winter vacation. In our case, we're already planning a return trip to fish for a grand slam of a sailfish, white marlin, and blue marlin in a single day. Several anglers have already accomplished this feat at Walker's and perhaps we will be able to join this happy and select group.

BOAT HEATERS STRETCH THE SEASON

by Gordon & Janet Groene

Chill, frosty mornings on still, steaming waters hold many of the best boating memories, the liveliest fishing, a brisk and bantering family breakfast, and cups of scalding coffee that taste better than coffee ever tasted before. You can boat right into the freezin' season by adding some sort of heater. The choice is now greater than ever.

Portable heaters for outdoorsmen and homes have been around for years, but on a boat you have special needs. First, the boat is your floating world. If there is a fire, there is nowhere to go but over the side. Safety is more important there than in any other heating situation. Second, the boat is by nature airtight compared to homes, tents and RVs. A boat is well sealed to keep water out, which means you have to make sure you get plenty of fresh air in and harmful fumes out while you're heating. Third, most boats except for some multi-hulls and pontoon boats have leak-proof "basement" bilges.

Heavier-than-air fuels which spill can't drain off, and they could form explosive pockets. Last, boats move, sometimes violently. Heaters must be well secured.

Three boating families once clustered their houseboats in a secluded cove nestled into the hilly shores of a small lake. The night was cold and still, so they ran generators to keep their heaters working. A child woke up sick, then another child complained of headache and nausea. Fortunately, the parents recognized the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning which was caused by the running of generators in a breezeless little pocket where hills captured exhaust fumes. Never forget that any time you are burning fuel you are robbing the air of oxygen and putting harmful by-products back into the air. The cruelest aspect of asphyxiation tragedies is that children are the most susceptible. Guard against the problem with good venting, and be alert for such symptoms as nausea, headache, ringing of the ears, and a cherry red skin color.

Make Use of Existing Heat. After we painted our decks white over the former coat of light blue, we noticed a difference down below of as much as 15 degrees. If you're boating in cold water, choose darker colors for your boat's finish. Black hulls are very popular in Maine, where they begin absorbing heat from the earliest rays of the rising sun.

If you prefer to keep the boat white, add heat-absorbing patches on cold mornings by slipping black or dark green garbage bags over opening hatches. If the morning is still, you can also lay a big black bag on the dewy deck where it will absorb the morning sun readily. Just make sure any plastic bags are well secured so they can't blow overboard and get into someone's water intake. These are temporary measures which make just a few degrees difference, but they are cheap ways to make use of a free energy source.

If you air condition your boat, opt for reverse cycle models. They can't provide enough heat for serious winter living aboard north of, say the Carolinas, but they can take the chill off cold autumn mornings and evenings. Household, RV-type and marine air conditioners are all available with heat cycles.

Otherwise wasted engine heat can be brought into the cabin. Install a coil from a car heater under a settee or in a locker, and add a fan and ducting to distribute the hot air. Take the water off at the hottest point on the engine, and rig a valve to turn it off when you don't want this hot water in the cabin. A coil to capture waste engine heat is used on many boats to provide a hot water system for the galley and showers too.

Your galley stove can provide cabin heat. In a small boat, say under 30 feet, just baking a coffee cake for breakfast makes enough heat to warm the boat. We use an aluminum Dutch oven for baking, which provides an even heat for baking and a nice radiator for the galley. Thin folding ovens radiate even more heat, which makes them better heaters but poorer bakers. You can also put a terra cotta flower pot over a flaming burner, to serve as a radiator.

As always, provide good ventilation. Even though this costs you heat, it vents off the waste products of combustion. In addition to carbon monoxide and other hazards put into the air by fossil fuels, they also put water into the air which can add to the discomfort of a damp boat. Electric heat is best for a boat, if you have a power source, because it is dry.

If you like to blast away from the dock and get out to the fishing grounds before you anchor for breakfast, make use of engine heat simply by opening any hatches between the engine room and the cabin after shutting down. Engines stay warm for an hour and will supply heat to the living area until the sun takes over.

One existing heat source should not be used below, even with good ventilation, and that is a charcoal grill. Charcoal heaters for boats are made, but they are permanently installed with a chimney. More about that later.

Portable Heaters. We'll divide all boat heaters into unvented, portable types and built-in furnaces and heaters which have their own vent, chimney or charley noble. The search for cheaper and more local home heating has resulted in many good heaters which can be used on boats. One of the leaders in the field is Aladdin, whose kerosene heaters and lamps have been classics among blue water sailors for years. New Aladdin models include convection and radiant heat types (the radiant types direct heat at a target area; convection types spread heat in all directions). The sporty little Pet model convection heater has a carrying handle, weighs about 11 pounds, and burns 17 to 20 hours on 1.2 gallons of kero, putting out 8-9400 BTU's per hour.

Coleman, another leader in the manufacture of heaters for sportsmen, makes three gasoline catalytic heaters and a propane-fired catalytic heater. The Winter Cat burns for 21 hours on its six-gallon tank- the Fall Cat burns 18 hours on one three-gallon tank, and the Chill Chaser burns 17 hours on one two-quart tank. BTUs range from 2000 for the smaller heater to 8000 for the large one. For more information on technical specs, contact Katie McMullen at Coleman, 250 N. St. Francis, Wichita KS 67201.

Permanent Heaters. While portables are the best and cheapest choice for casual cool weather boating, you'll have a safer and more efficient heater with a built-in furnace. This means you build in proper ducting and venting, to get the most out of the fuel while venting off dangerous fumes.

For a boat which has 110V current always available, electric baseboard heat is an inexpensive, easy way to heat. Houseboats can also use RV-type wall heaters which use propane plus, usually, 12-volt current to a blower.

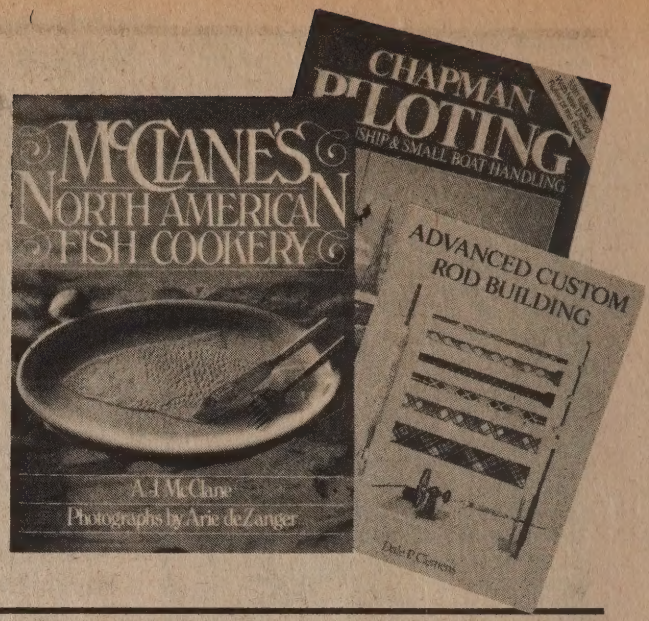
If yours is a diesel boat, a diesel forced air heater for boats is offered by Espar Productions, 6480 Viscount Rd., Mississauga, Ontario L4V IH3, Canada. Wood-burning stoves have made a big comeback in boats just as they have in homes, and you can get a wood/coal galley stove which will also heat the cabin. Very yachty and handsome bulkhead-mounted fireplaces are also available in tiny sizes for boats, and some manufacturers make bulkhead-mounted kerosene heaters for marine use.

Makers of special marine heaters include:

Atlantic Marketing, 528 Chain-O-Hill Rd., Colonia, NJ 07067
Evlstrom USA, 151 River Rd., Cos Cob, CT 06807
Espar Products, 6480 Viscount Rd., Mississauga Ont. L4V IH3
Faire Harbor, 44 Capt. Peirce Rd., Scituate, ME 02066
Jay Stuart Haft, 8925 N. Tennyson Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53217
C.J. Hendry, 139 Townsend St., San Francisco, CA 94107
Johnson & Joseph, 76 Jack London Sq., Oakland CA 94606
Paul E. Luke, E. Boothbay, ME 14544
Marine Air Systems, 3395 SW 13th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
Ratelco, 1260 Mercer St., Seattle, WA 98109
L. Sraga, 121-26 Dupont St., Plainview, NY 11803
Shipmate Stoves, Richmond Ring, Box 375, Souderton, PA 18964
Transmar, P.O. Box 462, Highland Park, IL 60035
Washington Stove Works, Box 687, Everett, WA 98206
Way-Wolff Assoc., 45-10 Vernon Rd., Long Island City, NY 11101
Windward Mark, 6317 Seaview Ave., N.W. Seattle, WA 98107
Wonder Corp., 24 Harborview Ave., Stamford, CT 06902

For the name of your nearest dealer in Aladdin kerosene stoves, write: ALH, P.O. Box 100255, Nashville, TN 37210. Aladdin's Blue Flame model is available by mail from L.L. Bean, Freeport ME 04033.

Some Great Gift Ideas from The Fisherman's Library



Special Discounts Apply to the Books Shown Only on These Two Pages

These two pages of fine angling books have been carefully selected by the editorial staff of The Fisherman and are being made available to our readers at discounted prices just in time for the gift giving season. There are titles that will please the novice fisherman as well as the seasoned veteran, books that are recognized as the standard reference on their own particular subject and cookbooks that will whet the appetites of your non-fishing friends and family.

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by Charles F. Chapman

An indispensable boating reference recommended by U.S. Power Squadrons and the U.S. Coast Guard auxiliary for use in their boating classes. This latest (55th) edition of the "boatman's bible" contains updated chapters on the new Rules Of The Road, boating laws and regulations, electronics and advanced piloting techniques. It has long been established as the most authoritative and comprehensive work in the boating field and is the standard text for anyone studying towards their Motorboat Operators License. Hearst Books, 640 pages. $23.95

PROFILES IN SALTWATER ANGLING

by George Reiger

This handsomely bound book is sure to become a classic in the angling world. From Lerner and Hemingway to Woolner and Reinfelder, author George Reiger has done a masterful job of tracing the history of the sport through the men who have been most responsible for its development. His brilliant gift for story telling makes this book a treasured addition to any serious anglers library. A limited number of copies signed by the author are available. Prentice Hall Publishers, 470 pages. $14.95

McCLANE'S NEW STANDARD FISHING ENCYCLOPEDIA

by A.J. McClane

If there is any one book that can answer to the title of being the most comprehensive and authoritative ever written on the subject of salt and fresh water angling, then this is it! Frequently described as the ultimate one-volume fishing reference library, this truly international angling guide is crammed with an incredible amount of data. And in true McClane fashion, it is presented in such a way as to provide hour upon hour of just plain old enjoyable reading. A must for any serious angler's library. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1156 pages. $50.00

STRIPED BASS FISHING

by Frank Woolner and Henry Lyman

Both Frank Woolner and Henry Lyman are recognized as two of the foremost authorities on the striper, one of our most challenging and sought after gamefish. Striped Bass Fishing is a completely revised and updated edition of their original work, The Complete Book of Striped Bass Fishing. This new work is being hailed as the bible of the sport as it details every aspect of the striper game. Whether you seek this great fish from beach, boat or jetty, Striped Bass Fishing is an indispensable book. New Century, 192 pages. $15.95

BAITS, RIGS AND TACKLE

by Vic Dunaway

From ultra-light to big game, the author covers every aspect of tackle, rigging, lines, leaders, hooks, knots, baits, lures and accessories with a meticulous attention to detail which only years of experience can provide. This valuable handbook contains as much information for the expert as it does for the novice. Wickstrom, 224 pages. $5.95

HOW TO CATCH CRABS by the BUSHEL

by Jim Capossela

Here is the first sport crabbing manual of its kind. This unique 64 page booklet tells all—how, when and where to catch blue claws along the Atlantic Coast, plus a great 16 page anthology of crab meat recipes. More than 40 illustrations in all. Northeast Sportsman's Press, 64 pages (soft cover) $3.95

CUSTOM ROD THREAD ART

by Dale P. Clemens

This heavily illustrated book goes beyond the functional aspects of rod construction which the author covered so thoroughly in his first two books. It covers in detail the beautiful and intricate art form of rod thread art. Included are over 100 patterns with all of the necessary techniques fully explained. It is the piece de resistance for anyone who builds their own custom rods. Rodcrafters Press, 221 pages. $21.95

PRACTICAL FISHING KNOTS

by Lefty Kreh & Mark Sosin

This is by far the most thorough guide to knots, lines and splices for fresh and salt water angling, including fly fishing, spinning, baitcasting, wire line trolling and big game. This most vital subject is dealt with to such a degree of completeness that no an-gler's library should be without this book. All of the necessary knots are demonstrated in detail with step-by-step photos and instruction. Crown, 160 pages. (soft cover) New Century $7.95

SUCCESSFUL BLUEFISHING

by Henry Lym

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Whether you're thrille[illegible] sight of a big blue crashi[illegible]face plug in a foamy surf o[illegible] to take him from the deck [illegible]arty or charter boat, this b[illegible]ould be required reading. [illegible] thorough work has ever be[illegible] on the bluefish as the auth[illegible]rs all of the basics as well a[illegible] of the finer aspects of the [illegible] Well illustrated with photos [illegible] sketches. International Marine, [illegible]2 pages. $12.00

HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER

by Gary Soucie

An essential handbook for the beginner and expert alike, covering every aspect of terminal tackle. The author shares his expertise in this often overlooked but critical phase of our sport with detailed explanations on the proper use of hooks, sinkers, snaps, swivels, floats, lines, leaders, lures and knots. Also included are chapters dealing with the latest advances in technology and fish behavior. Hook, Line and Sinker is the ultimate guide to selecting, buying, using and maintaining terminal tackle. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 418 pages. $22.50

McCLANE'S GUIDE TO SALT WATER FISHES OF NORTH AMERICA

by A.J. McClane

The only guide you will ever need for all salt water species found within North America. It is complete, up-to-date and informative, and covers the anatomy and methods of indentification of all our marine fish. Suitable for use in the field with its durable Kivar-3 laminated cover, the book contains over 300 detailed color portraits as well as a glossary of terms and diagrams. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 283 pages (soft cover) $9.95

McCLANE'S NORTH AMERICAN FISH COOKERY

by A.J. McClane

The author, with the help of world renowned photographer Arie deZanger, has produced a sumptuously illustrated cookbook containing 109 of the finest recipes ever compiled. They have culled the most delicious dishes from some of the world's best chefs and North America's greatest restaurants and simplified them so that even an amateur cook in a household kitchen can produce spectacular results. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 242 pages. $22.95

ADVANCED CUSTOM ROD BUILDING

by Dale P. Clemens

For those who have progressed to a point in angling where they require a rod which reflects their own special desires and needs, this book is a must. It picks up where Fiberglass Rod Making left off, covering the use of modern day blanks constructed of "S" glass and graphite as well as ancient bamboo. Included is a finely detailed series of sophisticated wraps which even the novice rod builders among us will feel comfortable tackling. New Century, 354 pages. $19.95

THE CAPTAIN'S COOKBOOK

by Capt. Walter Kaprielian

This unique, cheerfully illustrated book is a compilation of the favorite recipes of boat captains and mates from ports all over the United States. The author, Captain Walter Kaprielian, provides simple, easy to follow instructions accompanied by step by step illustrations for an endless stream of mouth-watering recipes. Always a favorite at gift giving time, The Captain's Cookbook is sure to please the heart and stomach of both friends and loved ones. Bluebeard Associates, 212 pages. $12.95

FIBERGLASS ROD MAKING

by Dale P. Clemens

The author took all of the guesswork out of rod building with the publication of this well organized and heavily illustrated text. It contains all you need to know about the selection and quality of components along with how to plan and assemble your own custom rod. Hundreds of step-by-step photographs help explain every conceivable aspect of building fiberglass rods, from the smallest ultra-light to the heaviest big-game outfit. New Century, 189 pages. $15.95

The Fisherman's Library

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TOP TROUT CATCHES IN '83

TROUT, WHETHER BROOK, BROWN OR RAINBOW ARE FAVORITES OF NORTHEASTERN FRESHWATER FISHERMEN AND ARE LIBERALLY STOCKED IN LAKES AND STREAMS FOR OPENING DAY. LISTED BELOW ARE THE BETTER CATCHES OF THE PAST SEASON.

BROOK TROUT, 4 LBS. 10 OZ. BY GREGG GRIFFIN IN HORN POND MASSACHUSETTS ON A MARSHMALLOW AND GARDEN WORM COMBINATION.

4 LBS. 4 OZ. BY STEVE HREBINCZAK IN LAKE COLBY, N.Y. ON A LAKE CLEAR WOBBLER ... IS A GENESEE CONTEST WINNER.

3 LB. 4 OZ. BY TONY MANTUANO IN THE MUSCONETCONG RIVER, NEW JERSEY ON CANNED CORN BAIT.

2 LB. 4 OZ. BY CRAIG B. BAILEY. IN WHITE CREEK DELAWARE ON CANNED CORN BAIT.

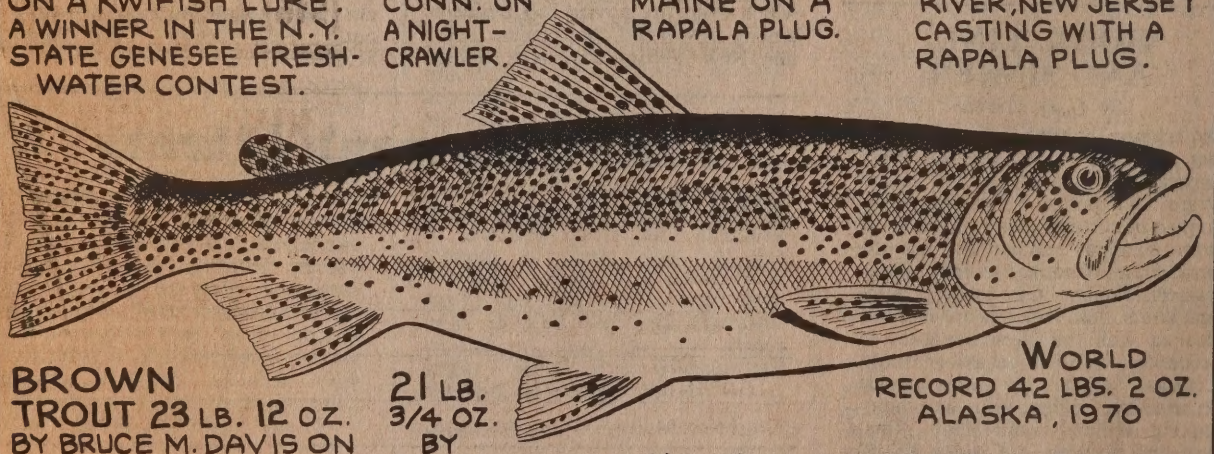
WORLD RECORD 14½ LB. ONTARIO, CANADA, 1916.

RAINBOW TROUT, 20 LB. 10 OZ. BY HAROLD J. EDWARDS IN THE NIAGARA RIVER ON A KWIFISH LURE. A WINNER IN THE N.Y. STATE GENESEE FRESHWATER CONTEST.

9 LB. 6 OZ. BY ANDY RINTALA, BLACKLEDGE, CONN. ON A NIGHT-CRAWLER.

6 LBS. 2 OZ. BY DAVID DIDONATO, SCARBORO, MAINE ON A RAPALA PLUG.

4 LBS. BY JAMES F. KEARNEY IN THE MUSCONETCONG RIVER, NEW JERSEY CASTING WITH A RAPALA PLUG.



WORLD RECORD 42 LBS. 2 OZ. ALASKA, 1970

BROWN TROUT 23 LB. 12 OZ. BY BRUCE M. DAVIS ON A JIG IN KEUKA LAKE, N.Y. AND IS A NEW N.Y. STATE RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES. A DEAD BROWN FOUND IN LAKE OWASCO WEIGHED IN AT 26 LB. 12 OZ.!

21 LB. 3/4 OZ. BY FRANK STEINHAUER IN THE MOHAWK RIVER, N.Y. ON A MEPPS NO. 2 ... GENESEE CONTEST WINNER.

11 LB. 8 OZ. BY GARY HLUCHNIK IN CANDLEWOOD LAKE, CONNECTICUT FISHING A RAPALA PLUG.

6 LB. 3 OZ. BY MARK A. GAUDET ON SALMON EGG BAIT IN WOOD RIVER, RHODE ISLAND.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

WORLD RECORD 35 LB. 15 OZ. ARGENTINA, 1952.

East End REPORT
with Stu Miller

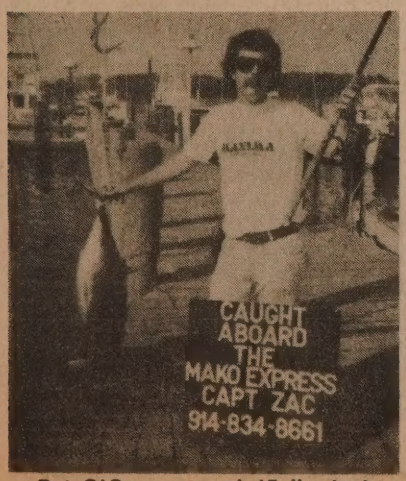
Cod is the name of the game.

MONTAUK

From the charter boat **Lori Jay** skipper Jay Rigano had his final group out Saturday for the season, Jaensch and Grizelj and pals Wayne and Joe, all from Valley Cottage, New York. Fishing just east of the Hooter buoy in 17 feet of water (yes, 17 feet of water) the party bailed 276 cod and 200 mackerel. Cod ran 5 to 23 pounds with many doubles being taken, all fishing being done on unchromed DeMayo jigs. The fish had been gorging themselves on sand eels.

Word from Captain John DeMaio's charter boat **Vivienne** was of good codfishing in the Cartwright area. Friday's charter boated 51 cod to 55 lbs. Fish averaged in the 7 to 8 lb. class, all on bait. Saturday's trip was at Block Island and in the Hooter area took a lot of cod in shoal water. Nearly 100 cod was the score in just two hours fishing working 25 foot depths on bait and diamond jigs. These fish averaged 8 lbs. and the biggest hit 15 pounds.

Ron Grandinetti and five pals aboard Ed Beneducci's boat Peppy hoisted 92 cod from 6 to 37 lbs. along with 310 macks and 4 blackfish, all at inner and outer Cartwright on clam bait.



Pat O'Connor used 15 lb. test spinning tackle to whip this 40 lb. albacore during a Montauk charter aboard Captain Zac Grossman's, "Mako Express."

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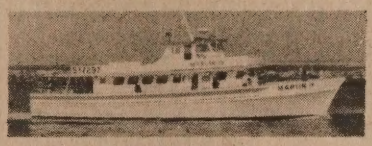

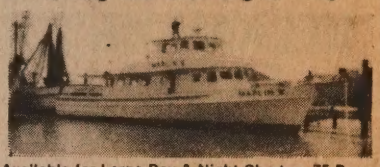

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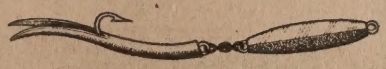

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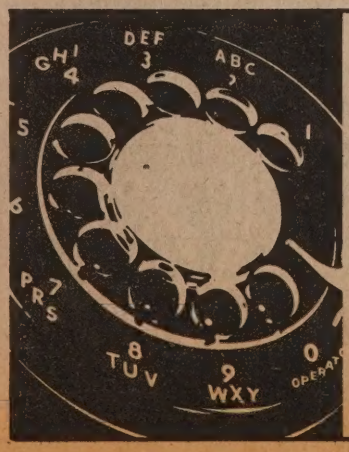

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South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

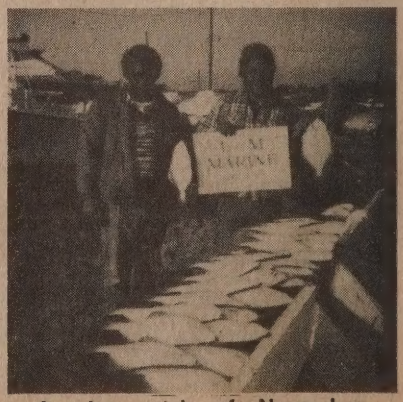
The best run of cod in years has boat captains and anglers excited as the '83 season winds down. Everyone agrees that there are lots of cod spread over wrecks and open bottom and that weather is the only factor capable of upsetting the apple cart.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

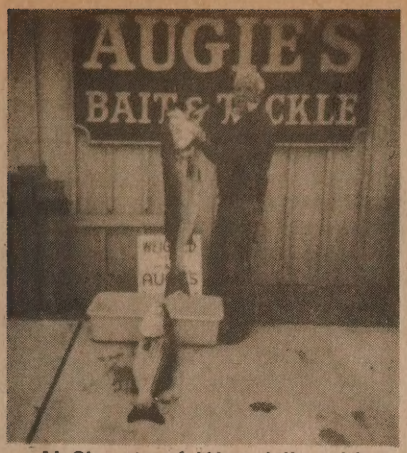
Although no reports were available from this area this week, flounder fans should note that some of the best action of last year occurred during the latter half of December in the Quogue Canal. Getting bait and a boat, if you don't trailer your own, could be a problem. However, Larry Dallaire of **L & M Marine** in **East Moriches** did tell us a couple of weeks back that he would keep a couple of boats ready to go through the winter. Prior arrangements should be made by calling him at 878-4777.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Al Colban of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** put in a good word for the cod action over wrecks and open bottom south of Fire Island. Best open bottom activity seems concentrated in 90'-100' of water. Al had word of a



A nice catch of November flatties from Moriches Bay by Walter Phillips and Ed Lancaster. The pair used mussel bait and chum to take 40 fish to 2 lbs. near buoy 42. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine in East Moriches.



Al Slawata of West Islip with stripers of 40.4 and 26.3 lbs. taken from the Gilgo surf in early November. The night before he took these fish produced bass of 13, 16 and 38 lbs. for the retired Grumman employee. All were weighed at Augie's Tackle in Babylon.

couple of decent flounder scores made in the western bay but noted that some large flatties were taken down off Heckscher. White perch fishing is very good in Carman's, Brown's and Connetquot Rivers. Trout fishing has slowed.

Very good cod action in this area has put big smiles on the faces of cod fans. **Captree** skippers were all in agreement that with the large numbers of fish around, we could be in for a real banner season. Weather of course, will remain the key factor but even uncer the worst of conditions, anglers have been able to drill out a better than average catch of cod.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** worked open bottom on Saturday to the tune of over 50 cod for just 15 fares. Most were 8 to 12 pounders. Sunday started off but gale force winds forced an early departure from the grounds. A few whiting, ling and macks beginning to mix with the cod on some days.

Friday was a banner day for Capt. Charlie Kennedy's **Capt. Joseph II**. Wreck fishing produced over 100 cod for 11 fares with Warren Kuhle leading the way with 15 fish. Gene Phalzer had 12 cod, Bob Pflug and Jack Gleason teamed to take 21 and Mike Hartman, on his 1st cod trip, put away 11. The skipper worked another wreck on Saturday resulting in 150-plus cod for 25 fares. Capt. George Bartenback on a busman's holiday from his duties as skipper of the **Capt. Rod**, was hi-hook with 13 cod. Corey Ward had a 31 pound pool fish while 14 year old Rob Crane nailed a 28 pound pollock. Everyone took a beating on Sunday when offshore winds gusted to over 50 m.p.h. Despite the poor conditions and having to quit by 11:30 AM, the 10 fares that managed to stick it out at the rails boated over 50 cod. This on open bottom.

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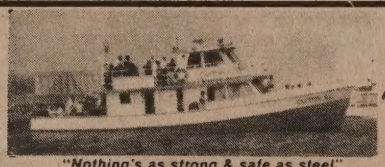
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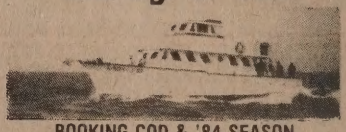

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Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty 3** told of good fishing throughout the week with good numbers of 12-18 pound fish taken early in the week. On some days, 5-8 pounders made up the bulk of the catch but larger fish are always mixed with them. Saturday's pool fish was a 40 pounder taken by Bob Rojas of Hempstead. Despite Sunday's nasty conditions, fares managed a steady pick of fish. George has been working over wrecks and some patches of rocky bottom.

To add a little spice to the already fine codfishing being enjoyed by **Captree** boats, the **Cod Game** gets underway this Saturday, December 17th. For a $1 entry fee, any fare aboard one of Capree's five open cod boats becomes eligible for a shot at the big prize money being offered for the two largest cod of the season. See the ad in this week's issue for more details.

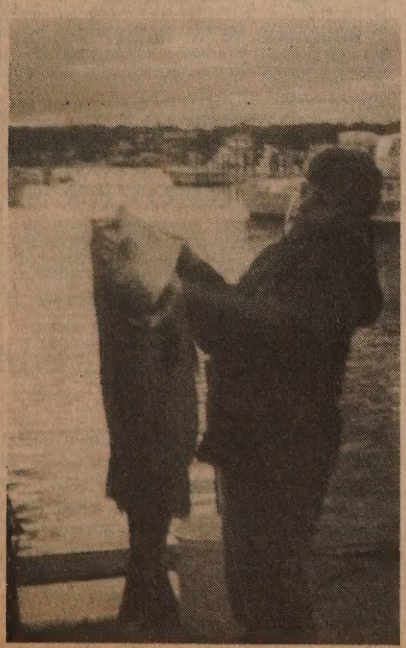
Over at **Augie's Tackle** in **Babylon**, Fred Austin relayed word that a handful of local private boats did a number on the cod Friday. Working over a patch of rocky bottom south of the inlet in 100' of water, the boats averaged 30-35 cod apiece. Most of the fish were in the 10-15 pound class but up to 25 pounds. The Gannet and Three Sons were among the boats who cashed in on the action.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Cod fishing continues to hold the spotlight with very good catches continuing every day that the boats are able to get out. While most of the catch is still being made on wrecks, open bottom is now starting to produce some cod as well.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Word from the **Capt. Al** is of good fishing every day they got out this week. Monday Cecil Joseph of Yonkers took the pool with a 38 pounder. Tuesday's pool fish was a 32 lber. for Rudy Berel. On Thursday Pete Cary of Massapequa was delirious with 20 cod to 20 pounds while Barry Nathan of Forest Hills bagged up with 18 cod to 25 lbs. Freeport angler Scott Phillips settled for 14 cod to 41½ lbs. Twelve passengers and crew had over 150 cod that day. George Quinlan took the pool with a 38 lber. to round things off. Saturday saw Mike Tinicila grab the pool with a 29 lber. Sunday Rick Carileer took pool honors with a 25 lber. Sunday was the only off day with roughly 50 cod taken, due to very bad



Eleven-year-old Matt French won't forget his first striper. The 30 pounder was trolled at Montauk in November aboard the charter boat "Marie III."

POINT LOOKOUT

'MISS POINT LOOKOUT'

Happy Holidays to All Our Friends & Customers. Thank You for Making '83 Our Biggest Year & We Look Forward to Fishing with You Again Starting the 1st Weekend of March '84.

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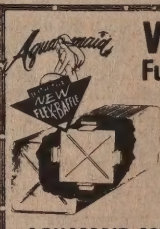
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fishing conditions. Action has been mostly on wrecks and the boat has been averaging 100 to 200 cod a day. Please note that while the boat will remain sailing 5AM weekdays, Skipper Al Lindroth will be sailing at 4AM Saturdays and Sundays.

From Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** also comes word of good codfishing every day that they sailed this past week. The boat had 81 cod Saturday and 61 cod Sunday. Some fares had from 6 to 9 fish and pools all week consistently were in the 30s. Friday's high hook was Lou Rosado of Daiwa with 18 cod. The boat has been working both wrecks and open bottom Clam has been the ticket with the sharpies using conch when the bergalls became fierce.

A call from Captain Jim of the **Super Spray II** also told of good cod catches every trip out with things off Sunday due to the high winds and rough seas. The boat has also been fishing wrecks and some open bottom with fish averaging 8 to 12 lbs. and pools going 35 to 40 lbs. There was a decent crowd on the boat Friday and Buster Dennis was high hook with 11 cod to 25 lbs. M. Wecher took the pool with a 35 lber. There were lots of catches of 6 to 10 fish a man. In Saturday's great weather high hook honors went to Mike Adelman with 13 cod. Rich Geyer hoisted 12 cod while Ed Kolakowski smiled with his 9 cod and Tom Citek was satisfied with 10. Artie Pagado settled for 9 cod. Approximately 250 plus cod were taken that day.

The **Captain Andy II** had a good day Saturday pounding flounder, but Sunday took a beating in the inclement weather. The skipper is

Ray Trozzo and Tom Mikoleski and a couple of the blues up to 20 lbs. they trolled off of the Rockaways this past fall. Subscriber photo.

calling it a season, wishes you all happy holidays and hopes to see you in the spring.

From Captain Tony of the **Miss Freeport II** came word of good codding Saturday in 90 to 110 feet of water on open bottom. Sunday was good too despite the poor conditions with 10 fares hoisting 44 cod to 30 lbs. Fish averaged 12 to 18 pounds. Tony advised he is now sailing 5AM friday, Saturday and Sunday but will be sailing everyday of Christmas week.

In nearby Point Lookout, the **Miss Point Lookout** continued to make some flounder catches whenever she sailed this past week. Monday saw Tony Valani with a triple header, each over one pound. On Saturday's AM trip, Phil Morris hoisted 25 flatties plus the pool fish. Saturday PM, Joe Sapenza had 12 flounder in the pool. A nice pick was had Sunday PM despite the high winds with Marilyn Solvato taking the pool. Bob Sitorski had 14 flounder and a like amount was landed by Matt French. Skippers Ron and Walt thank you all for a great season and hope to see you again in the spring.

NEW YORK BIGHT

From the **Pastime II** comes word that due to super ling, whiting and mackerel catches this past week by the fleet, that the boat will be switching to these species Saturday, December 17th at Noon. These trips will continue weekends and holidays until further notice. Captain and crew wish to thank all their friends and passengers, happy holidays.

Wee Willie over at **Mike's Tackle** advises that many Sheepshead Bay boats are slaughtering macks, whiting and ling at Ambrose Tower while the few boats that are sailing for cod have been doing well to the east on wrecks. The **Pilot II** has continued to do very well on blackfish at 17.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

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by Don Kamienski/Scott Simons

112 pages - Rigging baits, tackle selection, drifting methods, trolling, tricks for big fluke, casting artificials, structure fishing, chumming, the "drop Back", best rigs, bay techniques, deep water fluke.

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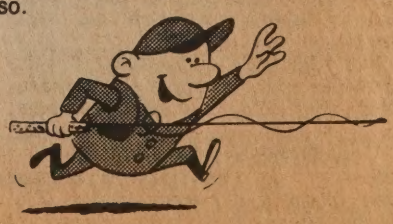
Word from the **Elsie K III** is that they will be codfishing 6AM Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays the rest of the winter.

Thirty blues taken at Debs Inlet by Joe Walsh, Joe Huber, Jim Cox Sr. and Jr. and Bobby Cox Jr. and Sr. The catch was checked at Skippy's Tackle Shop in E. Rockaway.

North Shore REPORT

with Marty Garrell

Most boats and fishing stations catering to L.I. Sound anglers have packed it in for the year. The same applies to the majority of North Shore tackle shops. If an angler can find a supply of bait, flounder should continue to remain a safe bet inside harbors and bays for another week or so.



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BOATS & MOTORS

1974 23' SEA BIRD center console, '81, 235 Evinrude. Lo hrs. Dual batt. switch, live bait well, 75 gal. built-in fuel tank, VHF radio & depth recorder. $8000. 1976 200 hp Johnson; lo hrs. Excl. cond. $2000. 516-598-0044.

WOODEN BOATS
Swampscott Dories. $1700. 26' Verity model skiffs. $5000. D.M. LEIGHT & CO., Tenants Harbor, ME. 04860. 516-698-2326 Eves.

20' 1978 WELLCRAFT I/O 198 hp Chevy. Full canvas; outriggers, CB radio, DF, Porta-Potti. Dual batt. system. Excl. running cond. In water; Babylon area. Dockage for remainder of season. Many extras. $7500. 666-4879.

STAMAS 26', Hartop, Twin V6 OMC I/O, new manifolds, UHF, DF, yard maintained. Bought larger boat. $9,000. Also, 8' Eli fiberglass dinghy with 2½ hp. Air cooled Eska engine. $400. 516-289-5462, Days.

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CHARTER BOAT & Business for sale. In lucrative Long Island Fishing Center. 212-793-6582.

1980 STARCRAFT 18' Center console. 60 hp Evinrude & trailer. Mint-$4995. 1975 Starcraft 18' center console, 1981 70 hp Evinrude & trailer-$3995. DAVE BOFILL MARINE, 516-283-6736.

17' 1972 CRESTLINER Bowrider, 1971 100 hp Merc. Excl. cond. Must sell. $2500. Eves: 914-835-1306.

17' BOSTON WHALER, 70 hp Evinrude. Low hrs. Boat in very good cond. Anchor, line, depth recorder. $2600. After 6PM. 212-645-8219.

1974 19' MAKO, 115 Johnson, E-Z Loader trailer. Full canvas, outriggers, downrigger, VHF, depth finder. Excl. cond. $8500. 516-589-5481.

1983 AQUASPORT 286-XF, Twin 255 Commanders, FWC, tuna tower w/controls, Lee outriggers w/spreaders, Pompanette fighting chair. Full canvas, radar, Loran, Chromascope, SSB, chart recorder, VHF/FM, CB, Hailer, ADF, burglar alarm. Good FD windlass. Plus much more; too much to list. Call for details. 212-549-1050.

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1979 MAKO 19' 140 hp Evinrude w/PT&T, CB radio, depth finder, swim platform. All canvas & cushions. Like new cond.; w/Shoreline trailer. Will Demo. $8500. Eves: 516-496-7336.

1978 MAKO, Evinrude 200 w/Bennett trim tabs; new bilge pump. Antennas for VHF, CB, Loran C, plus standing post & some canvas. Full electronics avail. if desired. Set up w/narrow & wide beam transducers for Lowrance X-15. Motor used only 4 years; new head last year. Getting larger Mako. Contact Al Ristori, 201-334-8059. Boat can be seen at Al Grover's, Freeport, 516-FR 8-0510.

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1982 Renkin 21' cuddy. Sleeps 3; 140 hp I/O-$9750.
1976 Aristocraft 19' 120 hp OMC I/O. Always trailered-$3900.
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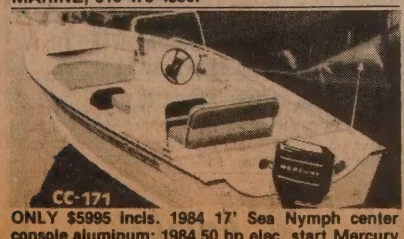

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On Water Boat Deliveries: U.S.C.G. Licensed captains. MARINE SURVEY SERVICE, 516-842-5928/757-7041.

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ABSOLUTELY New Inflatable Boat: Sea Eagle, 11' 6". Great for packing away in the car & launching from any beach. Incl. oars, bellows, lifejacket, floorboards & seat. Asking $225. Never used before. 212-465-4062.

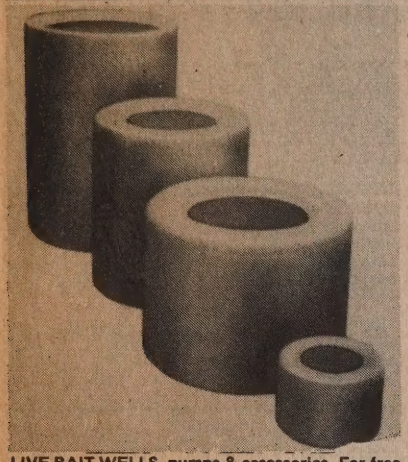
WINTER STORAGE, summer slips available, wet or dry, in the Jamaica Bay area. Full service yard and shop. Call for our low price. END CHANNEL MARINA. 212-763-5900.

WINTER STORAGE
Winter storage from $6.75 per ft.; 14-28'. Full service repair shop specializing in I/O & inboard engines & sterndrives. Volvo Penta, Mercruiser & OMC. Lift service available for boats 14-28'. Winter storage covers on sale up to 50% off. HARBOR MARINE COPR., Copiague, NY. 516-789-8789.

Continued On Next Page

MONEY: Need holiday money? Sell old; buy new. I buy boats, fishing gear, decoys, guns, trucks, campers, tools. Anything. 516-567-4104.

IT'S HERE AT LAST! The National Marine Electronics "Guide to Marine Electronics" w/everything you want to know about all forms of gear from depth sounders to radar & Loran & much more. Very complete, yet easy to understand. Pick one up today, or send $9.95 for your copy ppd. HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Hwy, Islip, NY 11751. 516-581-0194.

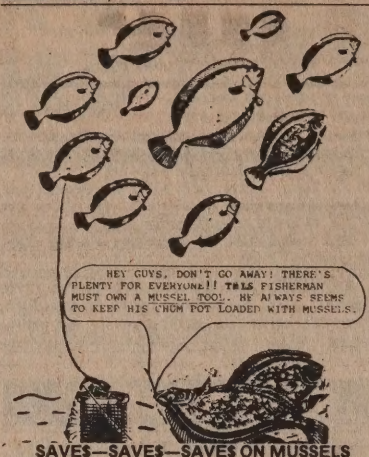


LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av., Dept. E, Central Islip, New York 11722; 516-234-0144.

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE: Old one-lunger inboard. Any make size or condition. 914-831-0687.

NEW CREDIT card! Nobody refused! Also Visa/Mastercard. Call 805-687-6000 ext. C-3617.

OUTBOARD OWNERS
Save money. Winterize your outboard like the pros. Simple instructions. $3. WADDLE, Box 441, Mastic Beach, NY 11951.


HEY GUYS, DON'T GO AWAY! THERE'S PLENTY FOR EVERYONE!! THIS FISHERMAN MUST OWN A MUSSEL TOOL. HE ALWAYS SEEMS TO KEEP HIS CHUM POT LOADED WITH MUSSELS.

SAVE$—SAVE$—SAVE$ ON MUSSELS
Pick bushels of chum & bait with Mussel Tool. No bending, matches your reach. Pincer-like grips, large mechanical leverage, molded hand grips. Special¶send $12.95 to: GEORGE CARDEL, 93-08 Francis Lewis Blvd, Queens Village, NY 11428.

NO COLD FEET when you get boots & boot liners by Helly Hansen at HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Hwy, Islip. 516-581-0194. We also carry the superb Grunden Swedish foul weather gear for both commercial & pleasure boaters, full sets jacket & trousers-$75 & $72. See us also for fish-handling gloves & mittens, protective sleeves, &, of course, reliable & reasonable electronics & service.

PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

ICE DEMON: Protect your boat & dock from ice. $199. BURCK, 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY. 212-885-1559.

WALT'S WALKERS are over-the-shoe, boot on wader quality, heavy duty rubbers w/12 hardened steel cleats. A must for jetty & ice fishermen & rocky stream fishing. Dealer inquiries invited. WALT'S WALKERS, P.O. Box 32, Manahawkin, NJ 08050. 609-597-5618. Avail. at Freddie's & Johnny's, Montauk Pt.

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Delaware Co., Hamden-Andes area. Prime deer & turkey hunting land. Only a few miles from the famous "Papacton Res." Plus great trout streams nearby. Very reasonable. Jake, 607-746-2987.

FOR SALE!
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POST OFFICE BOX 1994 • SAG HARBOR, N.Y. 11963

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	3:00	4:00	4:40	4:55	4:25	4:40	5:30	5:50	6:55	7:25	7:05	7:25	3:45	4:05	12/15
FRI.	4:30	4:55	5:25	5:40	5:15	5:30	6:10	6:35	7:40	8:15	7:50	8:15	4:35	4:55	12/16
SAT.	5:25	5:45	6:10	6:25	6:00	6:20	6:50	7:20	8:25	9:05	8:35	9:05	5:20	5:40	12/17
SUN.	6:10	6:35	6:55	7:10	6:45	7:05	7:30	8:05	9:10	9:50	9:20	9:55	5:05	6:25	12/18
MON.	6:50	7:20	7:35	7:55	7:25	7:50	8:15	8:50	9:55	10:35	10:05	10:40	6:50	7:15	12/19
TUES.	7:35	8:05	8:20	8:45	8:10	8:40	8:55	9:35	10:45	11:25	10:55	11:30	7:35	8:00	12/20
WED.	8:20	8:55	9:10	9:30	8:55	9:30	9:45	10:25	11:30	—	11:40	—	8:25	8:50	12/21
THURS.	9:10	9:50	10:00	10:25	9:45	10:30	10:35	11:15	12:15	12:25	12:15	12:35	9:15	9:45	12/22

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 12/15	7:20	4:29
FRI. 12/16	7:21	4:30
SAT. 12/17	7:22	4:30
SUN. 12/18	7:22	4:30
MON. 12/19	7:23	4:31
TUE. 12/20	7:24	4:31
WED. 12/21	7:24	4:32

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 12/15	1:49PM	2:13AM
FRI. 12/16	2:16PM	3:17AM
SAT. 12/17	2:47PM	4:24AM
SUN. 12/18	3:25PM	5:34AM
MON. 12/19	4:11PM	6:45AM
TUE. 12/20	5:08PM	7:53AM
WED. 12/21	6:14PM	8:55AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
12/4	12/12	12/20	12/26

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	12:45	6:50	1:00	7:10
Fri.	1:25	7:30	1:40	7:45
Sat.	2:00	8:15	2:25	8:40
Sun.	2:55	9:05	3:15	9:30
Mon.	3:45	9:55	4:05	10:25
Tues.	4:40	10:50	5:00	11:25
Wed.	5:40	11:55	6:05	—
Thurs.	6:40	12:30	7:20	1:05

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FOR UNDER $50.00

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GUEST - 300,000 CANDLE POWER SPOT LIGHT
No. 260 with plug & outlet List $76.95 — $47.98
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TERRAMAR - DRI-WOOL SWEATER $45.98

TERRAMAR OIL WOOL SWEATER List $67.00 — $48.19

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FOR UNDER $100.00

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UNIDEN'S - SEA HAWK 50 VHF RADIO List $429.95 — $199.[illegible]

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FOR UNDER $300.00

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